The Chat

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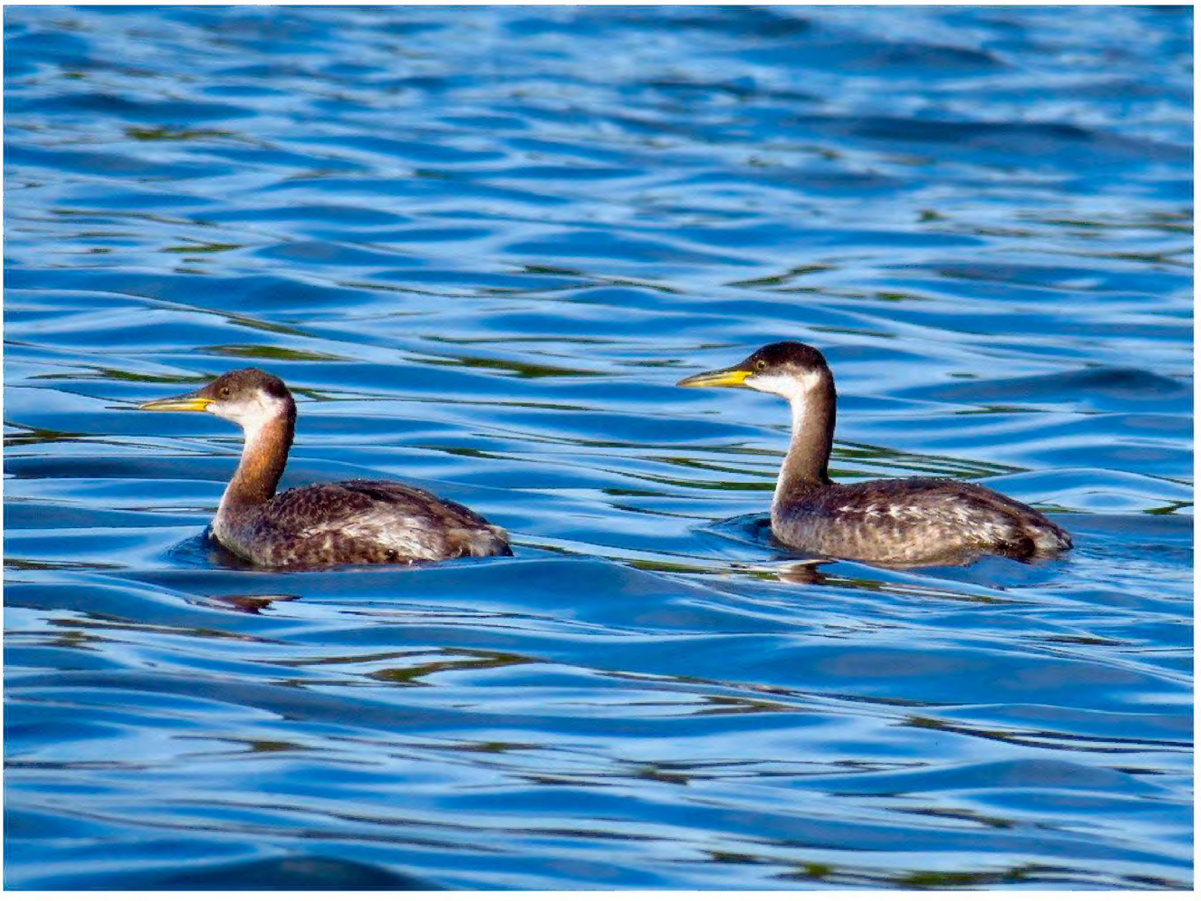

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General Field Notes

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Cover: Red-necked Grebes in Wake County, NC. Photograph by Stacey Barbour.

A Nineteenth-Century Record for Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in South Carolina

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Records for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in South Carolina are few and fragmentary. James Tanner, in his seminal work on the species, summarized what was known of its distribution and status in the state as of the 1930s (Tanner 1942). At that time the most recent sightings of what was, even then, an almost extinct species came from the lower Santee River Swamp. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) in fact indicated that the last official sight records for the species in South Carolina came from that area on 12 May 1935 and June 1936.

Maxcy Gregg (1815-1862) was an attorney and prominent resident of Columbia, South Carolina. His grandfather, Jonathan Maxcy, was the first President of the University of South Carolina (then South Carolina College). Like many of his social standing, Gregg was an avid shooter and sportsman and considered himself to be an amateur ornithologist and naturalist. Gregg also kept a meticulous journal of his outings, specimens bagged, and even the number of missed shots. This journal has been stored at the South Caroliniana Library and was recently published by Shotwell Publishing LLC and edited by Suzanne P. Johnson (Johnson 2019). The journal covers the period 1842-1858 with most entries taking place around the outskirts of Columbia. However, Gregg and several companions made a boat trip down the Congaree River from Columbia and the entire length of Santee River from 30 December 1843 to 20 January 1844. On 12 January 1844 Gregg shot and killed an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the lower Santee River floodplain. The following day, 13 January, Gregg and company broke camp and sailed "about 15 miles down the river to Flagger's Ferry." Since there was no ferry by this name, it is likely that Gregg got "Flagger's" confused with Staggers, the name of the ferry where US Highway 52 currently crosses the Santee River Floodplain. This would place the location where he shot the bird near Couturier's Lake (an old oxbow) on the south side of the river and about ten river miles east of the Lake Marion Dam. This location is consistent with his previous journal entries where he had dropped off some companions on 9 January at the old Santee Canal, 2.8 river miles east of the Lake Marion Dam, and his camp of 10 January at the "upper end of the Rocky Reach," a well-known exposed limestone rock formation in the river. They spent two nights at their next camp, where he secured the woodpecker, and only "about an hour's run" downstream from their previous camp of 10 January. Since the Santee River is the boundary between Williamsburg and Berkeley Counties, the county where the specimen was obtained is unclear. The disposition of the specimen is not known. Gregg was apparently not a taxidermist (Johnson 2019: 7) and there is only one known specimen from South Carolina (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

On this same trip, Gregg noted on 4 January that he "heard" an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the river swamp but he gave no specific location. According to his journal he would have heard it somewhere between his previous camp near the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers that form the Santee River and his next camp at Wright's Bluff, now part of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge in Clarendon County. This implies that Gregg was familiar with Ivory-bills and likely had seen, and heard them, elsewhere.

James Tanner visited the lower Santee River Floodplain to search for Ivory-bills during the late1930s and pronounced Black Oak Island (where the Lake Marion Dam was constructed in 1941, and now under 35 feet of water) to be "a large and excellent virgin forest of sweet gum and oaks" and the best section for Ivory-bills in the whole Santee bottoms (Tanner 1942). This area is only a few miles west of where Gregg had taken his specimen in 1844. Tanner also looked at other areas of the lower Santee, including the Wee Tee (Wittee) Lake area and Steward's Neck-Wadmacaun (Wadmacon) Island, all farther downstream from Gregg's specimen location, and indicated they provided good Ivory-billed habitat as well. Wadmacon Island was the last South Carolina locality where the woodpecker was officially observed in 1935 and 1936 (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

Gregg's 1844 record, and possible record of hearing one, provides additional evidence that Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were found throughout the Santee River floodplain, possibly as far north as Clarendon County. The Upper Santee River divides into the Congaree and Wateree floodplains, both featuring extensive, contiguous bottomland hardwood forest extending northward for another 50 miles to the Fall Line at Columbia and Camden, respectively. There is no reason to believe that Ivory-bills did not occur here in the nineteenth century, although evidence to support an occurrence remains elusive. Wayne (1910), however, did provide a Fall Line record from near Cheraw, Chesterfield County, for April 1889 of three Ivory-bills seen foraging together on a large, dead oak tree on the banks of the Great Pee Dee River.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2022, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1–February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1–May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1–July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1–November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location) and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area

All place names preceding NC/SC, also in italics, are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: 400 at Nemours Wildlife Foundation (restricted access) *Beaufort* SC 21 Nov (Steven Guy, et al.) was a remarkable count. One at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC throughout the period (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region, though its long-term residency there suggests domestic provenance.

Snow Goose: One photographed in northwestern *Ashe* NC 17 Oct (Guy McGrane) and four photographed at Land Harbor Lake *Avery* NC 28 Nov (John Frazier) were unusual for the NC High Country.

Ross's Goose: An adult photographed on Lake Jocassee at Devil's Fork SP *Oconee* SC 8 Nov (Jay Mager, Alexander Waite) was the first report this fall. Three were photographed together in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Washington* NC 22 Nov (Lori Arent, Harry LeGrand, Claire Sullivan, Lori White).

Tundra Swan: An adult seen and photographed on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 26 Oct (Tyler Beames, Maitlyn Betts) and, likely the same individual, on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 27-28 Oct (Jerry Griggs, m. obs.) was very unusual for the mountain region. Five on Lake Hickory in *Caldwell* NC 15 Nov (Caroline Martin) was a notable count for the foothills.

Eurasian Wigeon: A drake returned to Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 4 Oct (Daniel Irons), and three drakes were seen at that site 22 Oct (Jeff Lewis). A drake photographed near Sanderling *Dare* NC 9 Nov (Lewis) was unusual for the northern portion of the Outer Banks.

Northern Pintail: A hen seen in Banner Elk *Avery* NC, at ~3600 feet above sea level, 9 Oct through 29 Nov (Alex Trifunovic, m. obs.) was unusual for such a high elevation site.

Canvasback: A drake on Osceola Lake *Henderson* NC 22-26 Oct (Tim Novak, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region and somewhat early.

Harlequin Duck: One, alternately reported as a hen or a first-winter drake, was seen around the pilings of the Bonner Bridge Pier on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 22 Nov into winter (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

Surf Scoter: Scoters began moving through the Carolinas in late October, with some stopping over on inland lakes in the NC Piedmont. Those sightings included four on Lake Hickory *Alexander* and *Catawba* 28 Oct (Tiffany Huffman, Dwayne Martin), five on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* 29 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), two on Harris Lake *Wake* 31 Oct (Stacy & Natalie Barbour, m. obs.), three on Lake Orange *Orange* 8 Nov (Dan Kaplan, m. obs.), two on Kernersville Lake *Forsyth* 11 Nov (Chad Aldridge, m. obs.), one on Salem Lake *Forsyth* 24-25 Nov (John Haire, m. obs.), two on Moss Lake *Cleveland* 25-26 Nov (Bill Hooker, Kade Lockhart), and four on Jordan Lake *Chatham* 26 Nov (Tony & Cara Woods, m. obs.).

White-winged Scoter: One on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 15 Nov (Eddie Owens, m. obs.) was a good find inland.

Black Scoter: Sightings were made on several inland lakes 28 Oct through 5 Nov including two on Cane Creek Reservoir *Orange* NC 28 Oct (Kent Fiala, m. obs.), ten on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 28 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, m. obs.), seven on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 2 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), one on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 5 Nov (Dennis Kent, et al.), and 18, an amazing count for the mountain region, on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 5 Nov (Adair Bock, Jean Ells, Jay Lanier, m. obs.).

Long-tailed Duck: Three, two drakes and one hen, photographed on Lake Orange *Orange* NC 19 Nov (Brian Bockhahn) was the only report made this fall.

Red-necked Grebe: One on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 11-12 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) was rather early. Four photographed together on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 29 Oct (Jeff Lemons, Patty Masten, et al.) and two photographed together on Harris Lake *Wake* 5 Nov (Stacy & Natalie Barbour) were noteworthy, as most sightings in recent years have been of individuals.

Red-necked Grebes, 5 Nov 2022, Harris Lake, Wake County NC. Photograph by Stacy Barbour.

Eared Grebe: One was seen and photographed on North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 17 Oct through 1 Nov (David True, m. obs.).

Western Grebe: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of one seen on the ocean at Bull Island Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (Caroline Eastman, Peter Stangel) and 26 Nov when photographed (Jill & Ted Falasco, Andrew Lydeard, et al.).

Common Ground Dove: One seen along the Ninth Street pedestrian bridge in Oak Island *Brunswick* NC 11 Oct (Ricky Davis) was the first one found in NC in several years.

White-winged Dove: Individuals were seen at six sites this fall, all along or near the coast.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One photographed at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* SC 26 Nov (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) was very late.

Lesser Nighthawk: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Lesser Nighthawk in flight over the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC at dusk on 17 Nov (Truitt Ellis, Matthew Wiggins, et al.). If accepted, the report would provide SC its first official record, though not its first report, of this southwestern nighthawk.

Nighthawk sp.: A nighthawk seen foraging over Lake Craig at Croft SP *Spartanburg* SC at dusk 26 Nov (Francis Brady, et al.) was extremely unusual for late November. Though the bird was reported as our resident Common Nighthawk, it was not seen well enough to distinguish it from a Lesser Nighthawk, a species just as likely so late in the season.

Chuck-will's-widow: One heard calling in response to a Screech-Owl recording at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 23 Oct (Denise DuPon) was rather late for a site so far from the coast.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: A female *Archilochus* hummingbird, likely a Black-chinned Hummingbird based on photographs, visited Salvia flowers in a yard in Southern Pines *Moore* NC from mid-November through 27 Nov (Fran Irvin, John Bird, Jesse Grantham, m. obs.). Because the bird visited flowers and not the yard's feeder, it could not be cage-trapped for measurement and confirmation of species.

Calliope Hummingbird: Two, an adult male and a female/immature-type, photographed at a feeder north of Tryon *Polk* NC 23 Nov (Nathaniel Watkins) was an amazing report. Though NC has 20+ previous records of this tiny hummingbird, all are of single birds. The female/immature-type departed soon thereafter but the adult male continued at that site through at least 10 Dec (Vicky Burke, David Fischer).

Rufous Hummingbird: Individuals were reported at over a dozen sites this fall. One, presumably the same individual that wintered there the past two years, returned to the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 15 Aug (Dwayne Martin). A leg-banded

adult female returned to a yard near Sparta *Alleghany* NC 12 Oct (Harrol Blevins) where banded last fall. Of interest, a leg-banded adult female recaptured at a feeder in Murphy *Cherokee* NC 20 Nov was first captured and banded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 2 Feb 2020 (Mark Armstrong). Two, an adult male and an immature female, were banded in a yard north of Tryon *Polk* NC 27 Nov (Armstrong, Nathaniel Watkins), in the same yard that hosted two Calliope Hummingbirds a few days prior.

Clapper Rail: One photographed in a parking lot in Wilson *Wilson* NC 22 Sep (Ann Brice, Lewis Forsythe) likely put down mid-migration.

Virginia Rail: Locally unusual was one at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 8-9 Sep (Alex Fuller) and one or more heard calling along the American Tobacco Trail just west of Apex *Wake* NC 17 Sep through 4 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) with counts of four 18- 23 Oct (Voytko).

Common Gallinule: Individuals at Lake Betz *Wake* NC 2-15 Sep (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.) and at Falls Lake in *Durham* NC 24 Sep (Jim Capel) were unusual for the Piedmont.

Limpkin: One along the Weston Lake Loop Trail at Congaree National Park *Richland* SC 28 Aug through 18 Sep (John Grego, m. obs.) and 8 Nov (Corina Giron, Michael McCloy) was the only one seen away from SC's two known breeding sites.

American Avocet: This shorebird was well-reported inland this fall, mostly mid-August through early October. Some of the higher counts were five at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 19 Aug (Ann Brice, Alex Fuller, m. obs.), four at the upper end of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 20 Aug (Noah Rokoske, Jake Hillygus), six at the upper end of Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 31 Aug (Marc Ribaudo, Trenton Voytko), and 11 in flight over Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 22 Sep (Dwayne Martin). Individuals photographed on Lake Wylie at Ebenezer Park *York* SC 13-26 Sep (Cindy Stacy, m. obs.) and at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 16 Oct (Stacy & Natalie Barbour, Michael Fogleman) were firsts for those lakes. Other inland sightings included two at Lake Wheeler 9 Aug through 11 Sep (Dale Lambert, m. obs.), two at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 25-31 Aug (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), two at Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 14 Sep (John Haire), and one at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 22 Sep (Andrew Thornton).

American Golden-Plover: Migrants began showing up in early September, with reports peaking in very late September to early October. Ten, all juveniles, around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 30 Sep (Daniel Irons) was this fall's high count. Farthest inland was one in Clemson *Pickens* SC 3 Oct (Joe Dunkleman, Steve Patterson). One lingering at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC until 22 Nov (Jon Randolph) was the last to depart.

Piping Plover: A leg-banded juvenile photographed at the northern end of Roanoke Island *Dare* NC 25 Aug (Pat Draisey) was unusual for that island inside of the banks. Interestingly, the plover had been banded a few months earlier in Whitefish Michigan.

Upland Sandpiper: Sightings were made at about a dozen sites this fall, mostly at sod farms and other grassy sites inside the coastal plain. Uppies continued from late July at the Manteo Airport *Dare* NC through 1 Sep (Andrew Thornton) and at Vandemark Sod *Nash* NC through 7 Sep (Harvey Clodfelter). Farthest inland was one seen in central *Rockingham* NC 21 Aug (Marty Wall). One photographed at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 9 Oct (Gerry & Karen Lebing) was very late, one of the latest ever documented in the Carolinas.

Long-billed Curlew: One was seen on East Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC 3 Sep into early October (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.), and two were seen at that site 18 Sep (Roger Shaw) and 7 Oct (Matt Spangler).

Bar-tailed Godwit: One, presumably the same individual seen there last winter, returned to tidal flats on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 18 Sep (Jordan Juzdowski) where it continued into winter.

Hudsonian Godwit: Individuals were seen at two sites in *Dare* NC on multiple dates—at Pea Island NWR 29 Aug (Jonathan Cooley, m. obs.), 11 Sep (Ricky Davis), 8 Oct (Martina Nordstrand, Sarah Toner), and 19-29 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, m. obs.), and at the Salt Pond at Cape Point 29 Aug through 12 Sep (David Nicosia, m. obs.) and 27 Sep through 3 Oct (Robert Lethco, m. obs.). One seen and photographed at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 16-23 Oct (Ann Brice, m. obs.) was a fantastic find for a site away from the coast.

Marbled Godwit: One at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 20 Aug (Mel Green, Chip Davis) was the only inland report this fall.

Sanderling: An injured individual found on Beech Mountain *Avery* NC, at ~5000 feet above sea level, and taken to wildlife rehabilitator 18 Oct (Ciara Duncan) was very unusual for that high elevation.

Dunlin: Farthest inland this fall was one photographed at Yadkin Memorial Park *Yadkin* NC 21 Oct (Tom McNeil).

Baird's Sandpiper: Sightings, all made in NC, included one at New River Inlet *Onslow* 16 Aug (John Lynch), one at a pond in Pineville *Mecklenburg* 23-28 Aug (Greg Hays, m. obs.), one at Lake Wheeler *Wake* 3 Sep (Simon Thompson, m. obs.), one at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* 5-10 Sep (Marcia Lyons, m. obs.), two at Lake Wheeler 5-8 Sep (Dale Lambert, Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), four, a remarkable count, at Lake Crabtree *Wake* 31 Oct (Voytko, m. obs.), one in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* 2 Nov (Noah Rokoske), and two at Lake Twitty *Union* 6 Nov (Hays, Dennis Kent).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Sightings were made at eight sites this fall, all in the coastal plain, 22 Aug through 2 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: One photographed at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 20 Nov (Haley Harris, Jonathan Choi) was somewhat late for a site away from the coast.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Individuals or pairs were reported at multiple inland sites late July through early-to-mid-September. A tight flock of 56, identified by call, in flight over Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 20 Aug (Trevor Sleight) was a remarkable count for a site away from the coast. One at a pond along Hayes Rd in *Greenville* SC 27-31 Aug (Simon Harvey, Michael Robertson, m. obs.) was unusual for that area. One in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 1 Oct (Ann Stinely) through 15 Oct (Corrine Hibbard, Alex Nickley, Noah Rokoske, m. obs.) was rather late for a site in the Piedmont region.

Long-billed Dowitcher: One at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 6-7 Nov (Greg Hays, Dennis Kent) was locally unusual.

Willet: Two seen over Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 2 Sep (Andy Norris) and likely the same pair photographed at Lake Norman in *Lincoln* NC 4 Sep (Dennis Kent, et al.) were notable inland.

Wilson's Phalarope: This species was well-reported this fall, with sightings made at nine sites 1 Aug through 13 Oct. Locally unusual were individuals photographed on the eastern end of Sunset Beach *Brunswick* NC 11 Aug (David Wilson) and at a pond along Mt Olive Rd in northeastern *Spartanburg* SC 26 Aug (Steve Patterson, m. obs.). One at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 13 Oct (Ann Brice, m. obs.) was somewhat late for a site away from the coast.

Wilson's Phalarope, 11 Aug 2022, Sunset Beach, Brunswick County NC. Photograph by David Wilson

Red-necked Phalarope: Following the passage of Hurricane Ian, two were seen at Lake Waccamaw *Columbus* NC 1 Oct (Ed Corey) and one was seen in the Ellerbe Creek arm of Falls Lake *Durham* NC 1 Oct (Noah Rokoske, m. obs.).

Red Phalarope: One seen and photographed on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 24-25 Oct (Kevin Burke, m. obs.) was an amazing find for the mountain region.

Pomarine Jaeger: One photographed in flight over Waites Island *Horry* SC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Chris Hill) was notable for that stretch of the coast.

Parasitic Jaeger: 42 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 17 Nov (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count. A dark-morph bird photographed over Rose Bay from the end of Bell Island Fishing Pier *Hyde* NC 20 Nov (Ed Corey) was very unusual for a site so far from the coast, especially when not following the passage of a tropical storm.

Dovekie: One photographed on Onslow Bay three miles southwest of Shackleford Banks *Carteret* NC 19 Nov (Nathaniel Blackford, et al.) was somewhat early, also the first alcid reported this fall.

Sabine's Gull: Adult individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 27 Aug, 28 Aug, and 3 Sep (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.). Juvenile individuals seen and photographed on the beach between Salvo and Avon *Dare* NC 17 Sep (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) and at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Derb Carter, Sam Cooper) were great finds from shore.

Bonaparte's Gull: A juvenile individual seen by many around the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 17 Aug (Aidan Place) through 17 Sep (Daniel Irons) was rather early.

Black-headed Gull: An adult, presumably the same individual seen in the area last winter, returned to the southern side of Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 7 Nov (Jamie Adams).

Franklin's Gull: This gull species was well-reported this fall. Sightings included one at Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), one at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 17 Oct through 13 Nov (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.), one on the beach between Cape Point and Frisco *Dare* NC 23 Oct (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.), three at Jordan Lake 7 Nov (Kent Fiala, et al.), and four on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 13 Nov (Steve Coggin, et al.).

Herring Gull: Pairs on Harris Lake *Wake* NC 12 Aug (Trenton Voytko) and on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 17 Aug (Matthew Withrow) were early for those sites away from the coast.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: One photographed on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 13-15 Sep (Steve Patterson, m. obs.) was unusual for upstate SC and somewhat early for a site so far inland. 2500 at Cape Point *Dare* NC 15 Nov (Daniel Irons) was a remarkable count.

Great Black-backed Gull: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Great Black-backed Gull at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 1 Aug (Michael Plauché). If accepted, the report will provide the first record of this gull in the mountain region. One on Falls Lake *Durham* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (m. obs.) was the only other inland report this fall.

Brown Noddy: A juvenile was photographed near the pier at Myrtle Beach SP *Horry* SC during the passage of Hurricane Ian 30 Sep (Scott Hartley).

Sooty Tern: Eight in flight off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 1 Sep (Andrew Thornton) was a remarkable count from shore away from the passage of tropical storm. 135 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 19 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was a notable count.

Bridled Tern: Sightings associated with Hurricane Ian included two off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 30 Sep (Andrew Thornton, Audrey Whitlock), one at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanover* NC 30 Sep (Jesse Anderson), and two at Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC 30 Sep (Derb Carter).

Gull-billed Tern: One photographed on the western end of Oak Island *Brunswick* NC 3 Nov (Bill Haake) was quite late.

Caspian Tern: Two at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 2 Nov (Eddie Owens) were late for an inland site, while one photographed at Ecusta Pond in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 4 Nov (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché, Frank Porter, m. obs.) was very late for a site in the mountain region.

Black Tern: Eight over a flooded turf farm near Brevard *Transylvania* NC after heavy rain 5 Sep (Nathaniel Axtell, et al.) was a notable count for the mountain region. Two at Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC following passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Dwayne Martin, et al.) were late for a site in the western Piedmont. One photographed on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (Ted & Jill Falasco) was incredibly late for any site in the Carolinas.

Forster's Tern: Individuals at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 19 Aug (Bob Butler, Simon Thompson) and at Ecusta Pond Brevard *Transylvania* NC 11 Nov (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.) were notable for the mountain region.

Royal Tern: Individuals at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 1 Oct (Henry & Elizabeth Link, Matt Wangerin, et al.) and at Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 2 Oct (Patty Masten, et al.), following the passage of Hurricane Ian, were good finds inland.

Black Skimmer: One at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) was a great find inland.

White-tailed Tropicbird: On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, one was seen 6 Aug, two were seen 19 Aug, and one was seen 20 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-throated Loon: One on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 22 Nov and 27 Nov (Carol Eldridge) and likely the same individual on Thurmond Reservoir *McCormick* SC 25 Nov (Mac McCall, John Patten Moss) and 27 Nov (Andrew Lydeard) was notable inland.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of an apparent Wilson's Storm-Petrel seen in flight over Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the fourth record for the NC Piedmont, all associated with the passage of hurricanes.

White-faced Storm-Petrel: One well-photographed from a fishing boat nine miles southeast of Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 12 Sep (Gabriel Ricketts) was a fantastic find, a first for that county.

Wood Stork: Notable counts at inland sites included 13 at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 29 Aug (Dennis Kent), 32 at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 8-9 Sep (Alex Fuller), 52 near Williamston *Martin* NC 17 Sep (Trevor Sleight, Ed Corey), 33 at Buckhorn Reservoir 1 Oct (Jean Ells), and 16 at River Park North *Pitt* NC 1 Oct (Howard Vainright). Farthest inland this fall was one seen in flight over Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 12 Sep (Dwayne Martin).

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen over six sites along the coast this fall, 1 Aug through 7 Oct (m. obs.).

Brown Booby: Adult individuals were seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 20 Aug (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.), perched on Diamond Shoals Tower *Dare* NC 5 Sep (Daniel Irons), and in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 2 Nov (Irons).

Neotropic Cormorant: The individual found at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 30 Jul (Trevor Sleight) continued at that site through 13 Oct (m. obs.).

American White Pelican: One photographed in a small cove at the upper end of Lake Norman in *Iredell* NC 5 Aug (Byron Levan) was rather early for a site in the Piedmont. A flock of 34 seen flying up the coast in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 28 Sep (Deb Winter) was seen again two hours later over Oak Island *Brunswick* NC (Rob Rogers). 40 at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 21 Oct (Trenton Voytko, Rob Rybczynski) was a notable count for that site.

Brown Pelican: An immature Brown Pelican was seen at six inland lakes—at Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC 17-24 Aug (Chip Davis, m. obs.), at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 7-8 Sep (Cindy Kluchar, m. obs.), at Lake Tillery *Montgomery* at *Stanly* NC 14 Sep through 9 Oct (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.), at Lake Wylie *York* SC 15 Sep (Matt Rivers), on Lake Rhodhiss *Burke* and *Caldwell* NC 12 Oct (Brenda Williams) through 7 Nov (Caroline

Martin), and at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 14-19 Nov (Ann Stinely, m. obs.). It's likely that some if not all of these sightings involved the same wandering individual.

American Bittern: One photographed along Little Laurel Creek in northwestern *Madison* NC 1 Nov (*fide* Pat Momich) was unusual for that area of the mountains.

Least Bittern: Individuals heard calling along the American Tobacco Trail just west of Apex *Wake* NC 18-30 Aug (Trenton Voytko, m. obs.) and along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC 24 Sep (Andrew Thornton) were locally unusual.

Great Blue Heron (white form): A "Great White Heron" was seen and photographed at Riverside Park in Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 21-28 Sep (Art Webster, m. obs.)

Great Egret: Three photographed at Price Lake *Watauga* NC 14 Nov (Guy McGrane) were late for the northern mountains.

Tricolored Heron: Farthest inland this fall were juvenile individuals at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 20 Aug through 12 Sep (m. obs.), at Coddle Creek Reservoir *Cabarrus* NC 25 Aug (Patty Masten, m. obs.), and at Lake Rhodhiss *Burke* NC 31 Aug and 14 Sep (Caroline Martin).

Cattle Egret: 15 photographed in flight over Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 23 Sep (Bob Butler, Aaron Steed) was a noteworthy count for the mountain region.

Green Heron: One at Wildcat Lake *Avery* NC, at ~3800 feet above sea level, 5-6 Nov (Alex Trifunovic, m. obs.) was rather late for a site at such a high elevation.

White Ibis: Seven juveniles in a flooded field in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 21-22 Aug (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) was a notable count for the mountain region.

Glossy Ibis: Inland sightings included four at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 1 Sep (Christine Maj), one at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC 6 Sep (Charles Rucinski), and one at upper end of Falls Lake *Durham* NC following Hurricane Ian 1-2 Oct (Matt Lawing, m. obs.). Nine just west of Snow Hill *Greene* NC 20 Aug (Trevor Sleight) and three at the upper end of Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 26 Aug through 12 Sep (Ann Brice, m. obs.) were good counts for sites in the inner/upper coastal plain.

Glossy/White-faced Ibis: A relatively plain-faced immature *Plegadis* ibis was seen and photographed in Horse Shoe *Henderson* NC 19 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey, m. obs.). If a Glossy Ibis, this individual was the latest in fall ever seen in the mountain region.

Roseate Spoonbill: Spoonbills made a notable push northward and inland during post-breeding dispersal Jul through Sep, though not to the extremes seen in 2018 and 2021. Inland sightings, mostly juvenile birds, included one at Lake Wheeler *Wake* NC continuing from summer through 3 Oct (Dale Lambert, m. obs.), two along Brickhouse Rd in *Durham* NC 1 Aug (Mark DiGiovanni), two along Little Beaverdam Creek in

Anderson SC 2-4 Aug with one continuing through 1 Sep (Steve Patterson, m. obs.), one at Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 14-31 Aug (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.) and at nearby Price Park 2 Sep (Wangerin, et al.), and one at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 21 Aug through 14 Sep (Alex Fuller, m. obs.).

Swallow-tailed Kite: Inland sightings related to post-breeding dispersal continued from late summer into August. A few of the higher counts were five at Pilot Mountain SP *Surry* NC 1 Aug (Rebecca Browder, et al.), five over fields in Mooresboro *Cleveland* NC 3 Aug (Bill Hooker), four over fields along the Catawba River just northwest of Marion *McDowell* NC 5 Aug (Melissa Angles), four over fields just southeast of Elgin *Lancaster* SC 6 Aug and 20 Aug (Greg Hays), five over Island Ford Landing *Transylvania* NC 8 Aug (Jerry Griggs, Michael Plauché), four over fields along the French Broad River in *Henderson* NC 9 Aug (Bob Butler), three over Irma's Produce Fields east of Old Fort *McDowell* NC 12-13 Aug (Steve Semanchuk, m. obs.), eight over fields in northern *Laurens* SC 19 Aug (Simon Harvey), and eight over fields near Clingman *Wilkes* NC 23 Aug (Dale Reynolds).

Golden Eagle: A first-year bird photographed in flight over Kitty Hawk Woods *Dare* NC 19 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was quite unusual for the Outer Banks.

Mississippi Kite: One photographed in flight over Round Bald at Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC, at 5800 feet above sea level, 31 Aug (Kade Lockhart) was unusual for that high elevation.

Swainson's Hawk: An intermediate-morph juvenile was well-photographed in flight over Twiford Rd at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 16 Oct (Karla Schmidt).

Crested Caracara: From the Summer 2022 period and pending review by the NC BRC is the report of a Crested Caracara seen near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 24 Jul (Alex Teodorescu). If accepted, the report would provide NC its second record. Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Crested Caracara around the Johnson Creek Bridge on Harbor Island *Beaufort* SC 19-21 Aug (Steven Guy, m. obs.). If accepted, that report would provide SC its fourth record.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: One was photographed on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 12 Nov (Joseph Payne).

Western Kingbird: Individuals seen and photographed in eastern *Wilkes* NC 6 Sep (Dale Reynolds) and near the NC Museum of Art *Wake* NC 3-9 Nov (Alex Preston, m. obs.) were unusual for sites outside of the coastal plain. Closer to the coast, individuals were seen and photographed near St George *Dorchester* SC 31 Aug (Matt Johnson), in North Topsail Beach *Onslow* NC 1 Oct (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel), at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 10 Oct (Len O'Toole) and 11 Oct (Mel Green), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4-19 Nov (Elizabeth Anderegg, m. obs.), and along Blue Clay Rd in *New Hanover* NC 26 Nov (Sam Cooper, Jacob Annis).

Western Kingbird, 17 November 2022, Ft. Moultrie, Charleston County, SC. Photograph by Jerry Kerschner.

Gray Kingbird: Individuals were seen at three sites along or near the SC coast—in southern *Horry* 3 Aug (Ritch Lilly), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* 21 Sep (Elizabeth Anderegg) and 27 Sep (Simon Harvey), and on Saint Helena Island *Beaufort* 2 Oct (Tammy Hester). Two at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 7 Oct (Ed Corey, m. obs.), with one remaining through 9 Oct (m. obs.), were especially notable for NC.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Len O'Toole). If accepted, the report would provide the fifth record for NC and the first for the NC Piedmont.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were reported at over a dozen sites this fall, 16 Aug through 3 Oct, primarily in the western half of the region. One photographed near Coats *Harnett* NC 2 Sep (Kimberly Miskiewicz) was a first for that county. One photographed at Emerald Isle Woods *Carteret* NC 18 Sep (Stephen Schoon) was the only one found near the coast.

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent "Western Flycatcher" near the boat ramp at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 26 Nov into winter (Ann Stinely, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC its third record of this *Empidonax* from the west.

Say's Phoebe: One, likely the same individual seen there last winter, was seen along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC 29 Sep into winter (Rhonda Weiss, Lou Skrabec, m. obs.). Individuals photographed at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4 Oct (Jerry Kerschner) and on Ocracoke Island *Hyde* NC 5 Oct (Betty Burke, Bob Crawford) were never re-found.

Vermilion Flycatcher: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent first-year male Vermilion Flycatcher on Bald Head Island *Brunswick* NC 19 Oct (Ben Cotter, m. obs.).

Bell's Vireo: One seen and photographed at Run Hill State Natural Area *Dare* NC following the passage of Hurricane Ian 1 Oct (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) was a great find.

Philadelphia Vireo: This species was well-reported this fall, all reports Sep-Oct with a peak in late September. Four around the Bodie Island Lighthouse *Dare* NC 23 Sep (Daniel Irons) was a notable count, especially for a site outside the mountains.

Warbling Vireo: Four at Nags Head Woods *Dare* NC 15 Sep (Daniel Irons) was a notable count for a site along the coast.

Common Raven: 24 in flight over Dan River Game Land *Rockingham* NC 24 Oct (Marty Wall) was notable count for a site in the Piedmont region. Nine seen and photographed just north of Furman University *Greenville* SC 23 Nov (Tim Kalbach) was a record count for SC.

Horned Lark: 300 in the Dalzell Unit of Modern Turf *Sumter* SC 14 Aug (Mac Williams, Shawn Smolen-Morton) was a notable count.

Cliff Swallow: 17 in flight with Tree Swallows over the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 23 Oct (Aaron Given, et al.) was a remarkable count for late October.

Tree Swallow: An estimated 29,000 at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 11 Oct (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) was a noteworthy count for a site in the mountain region.

Sedge Wren: Two in the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 16 Oct (Dwayne Martin, Ian & Janelle McDonald) and one near Five Forks *Greenville* SC 16 Oct (Tim Kalbach, m. obs.) were locally unusual.

Marsh Wren: One photographed near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 23 Nov (Judith Davis, Michael Plauché, et al.) was quite late for a site in the mountain region.

Hermit Thrush: An adult female mist-netted at the banding station on the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 22 Aug (Aaron Given, et al.) was incredibly early for a site outside of the mountains.

American Pipit: One on the mudflats in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* 16 Sep (Henry Link) was somewhat early.

Evening Grosbeak: Two photographed in a yard in Waves *Dare* NC 4 Nov (Karen Lebing) were suggestive of an impending winter irruption. By late November, individuals or pairs were reported at a few other sites, mostly in northwestern NC.

Evening Grosbeak, 4 November 2022, Waves, Dare County, SC. Photograph by Karen Lebing.

Purple Finch: Purple Finches began trickling into the Carolinas in late September and were seen throughout much of the region by the end of the period.

Red Crossbill: Up to 12 at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery *Oconee* SC 5-20 Aug (Steve & Debra Patterson, m. obs.) was a good count for SC. The report of a Type 1 (Appalachian) Red Crossbill audio-recorded calling, though admittedly not well seen, at Emerald Isle Woods *Carteret* NC 17 Sep (Roger Shaw) is intriguing, as that type is not known for wandering so far outside of the mountains.

Pine Siskin: Siskins began showing up at a few sites outside the mountains in October but didn't irrupt in huge numbers like in some years, most recently winter 2020/2021.

Lapland Longspur: Individuals were found in an agricultural area of southern *Northampton* NC 6 Nov (Larry Chen, Sarah Toner) and at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 28 Nov (Irvin Pitts).

Snow Bunting: Individuals were seen and photographed between Coquina Beach and Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 19 Nov (Megan Baker), in Waves *Dare* NC 27 Nov (Karen Lebing), and at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 28 Nov into winter (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel).

Lark Sparrow: Sightings were made at 17 sites this fall, all but two along or near the coast. The majority of sightings were made in *Dare* NC, mostly Aug-Sep, and included counts of two birds at Run Hill State Natural Area 31 Aug (Andrew Thornton) and on the southern side of Oregon Inlet 9-11 Sep (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) and 24 Sep (Jeff Lewis). One photographed in a yard in southern *York* SC 1 Oct (Marcus & Cheryl Morris) was the only report made from a site in the Piedmont. One at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 23 Aug (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region.

Lark Bunting: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent female Lark Bunting in the dunes around the Old Coast Guard Station on the southern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 23 Sep (Daniel Irons, m. obs.). If accepted the report would provide NC its seventh record and its first in 30 years.

Clay-colored Sparrow: This species was reported from nearly two-dozen sites this fall, 9 Sep through 13 Nov, mostly along or near the coast. Reports of two or more birds included two at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 13-18 Sep (Charles Donnelly, m. obs.), two around the Old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 24 Sep (Jeff Lewis) intermittently through 3 Nov (Daniel Irons), two on the northern side of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 1 Oct (Andrew Thornton), three at Ft Moultrie 9 Oct (Donnelly), and four at the Ft Fisher Ferry Terminal *New Hanover* NC 30 Oct (Jamie Adams). Individuals at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 16-17 Oct (Zane Fish, m. obs.), in Kernersville *Forsyth* NC 26-27 Oct (John Haire, Paul Nielson, m. obs.), in southwestern *Randolph* NC 7 Nov (Rob Rogers, Brent Wooten), and along the Timmerman Trail *Lexington* SC 1 Nov (Irvin Pitts) were good finds inland.

Dark-eyed Junco: One visiting a yard in Greensboro *Guilford* NC 29 Sep (James Pretzsch), and likely the same individual in neighboring Summerfield the next day 30 Sep (Heather Buttonow), was early for a site outside of the mountains.

White-crowned Sparrow: An immature bird photographed on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC 16 Sep (John Britt) was quite early.

LeConte's Sparrow: Individuals at Bear Island WMA *Colleton* SC 21-22 Oct (Peter Stangel, m. obs.) and in the Pine Island Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 25 Oct (Ron Ashe, Irvin Pitts) were good finds.

Henslow's Sparrow: Three at Silver Bluff Audubon Center *Aiken* SC 27 Oct (Andrew Lydeard) was a notable count for that area.

Lincoln's Sparrow: This sparrow was well-reported again this fall with sightings peaking in mid-October. One photographed at Carvers Gap *Mitchell* NC 15 Sep (John Britt) was rather early. Five around Warren Wilson College *Buncombe* NC 30 Sep (Aaron Steed, et al.) and six near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 1 Nov (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) were notable counts.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Two distinct individuals were seen in SC this fall—a female photographed in a yard in Cayce *Lexington* 7 Sep (Richie Barber, Katie Idzik) and an immature male photographed at Pickney Island NWR *Beaufort* 15 Oct (Lynn Hodgson, et al.).

Orchard Oriole: An adult male photographed on Lady's Island *Beaufort* SC 1 Nov (Tammy Hester) was very late.

Bullock's Oriole: An adult male photographed at a feeder on James Island *Charleston* SC 6 Oct (Barbara Spence, Aaron Given) was unusually early; most reports of this very rare winter visitor are made late November to early March. An adult male visited a feeder in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 29 Nov into winter (Pam Ford, Craig Watson, m. obs.) in an area that has hosted this species in past winters.

Golden-winged Warbler: One seen and photographed at Nags Head Woods *Dare* NC 2 Oct (Sarah Toner, m. obs.) was unusual for the Outer Banks.

Prothonotary Warbler: One captured at the banding station on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Oct (Maia Nguyen, et al.) was quite late.

Swainson's Warbler: One mist-netted and banded on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 2 Oct (Nathaniel Watkins, et al.) lingered in that area for several weeks, as it was recaptured 25 Oct (Kristin Attinger, et al.) and again 29 Oct (Watkins, et al.).

Tennessee Warbler: Latest to depart this fall was one captured at the banding station on the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 20 Nov (David McLean, et al.).

Nashville Warbler: This rare-to-uncommon migrant was well reported again this fall. Sightings were concentrated in the mountains, along the coast, and around cities in the Piedmont - the last likely due to increased birder coverage. Five along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 14 Oct (Jonathan Cooley) was the high count. One photographed in southwestern *McDowell* NC 16 Nov (Tom Pericak) was quite late for a site in the mountain region.

Connecticut Warbler: This species made a fantastic showing this fall, 22 Sep through 24 Oct, with sightings made at 15 sites. The passage of hurricanes Fiona 23 Sep and Ian Oct 1 likely contributed to the high number of reports by forcing some migrants down, over-ocean migrants towards land. Three around Hatteras Point *Dare* NC 29 Sep (Daniel Irons) and four there 1 Oct (Irons) were fantastic counts. One photographed at that site 24 Oct (Megan Baker, Michael Gosselin) was rather late and may have been lingering there since late September.

Mourning Warbler: Individuals were reported at seven sites this fall, 7 Sep through 2 Oct.

Kentucky Warbler: One seen near Cape Point *Dare* NC 1 Sep (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) was unusual for the Outer Banks.

American Redstart: A total of 145 at Run Hill State Natural Area *Dare* NC 21 Sep (Andrew Thornton) was a notable count of migrants. One lingering in southeastern *Lexington* SC until 19 Nov (Jerry Griggs) was late to depart.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Individuals lingered into early November at about ten sites in the Piedmont and coastal plain.

Prairie Warbler: One photographed along Pokeberry Creek *Chatham* NC 14 Nov (Mark Goodwin) was somewhat late for a site in the Piedmont.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Two distinct individuals were photographed at sites in the NC coastal plain—a female in Rockyhock *Chowan* 16 Oct (Jerry Messinger) and a male in Wilmington *New Hanover* 30 Oct (Sam Cooper). Both reports are pending review by the NC BRC.

Black-throated Green Warbler: An immature bird photographed in a yard in southeastern *Mecklenburg* NC 17 Aug (Ava Kornfeld) was early for a site outside the mountains/foothills.

Wilson's Warbler: Individuals were reported at over two dozen sites this fall, 27 Aug through 24 Oct.

Dickcissel: Seven around Federal Point at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 28 Oct (Jesse Anderson) was a notable count away from a breeding site.

Fifty Years Ago in The Chat

Steve Shultz

The December 1972 issue of The Chat featured a black and white drawing of a Pileated Woodpecker, copies of which were available to the public in return for joining the National Audubon Society. At that time, annual membership was $35. Today one can be an annual member for as little as $20! Not many things cost less than they did in 1973, although today's member does not receive the woodpecker artwork!

Monk Parakeets were found to be nesting in Buncombe County, NC, presumably in 1972, and a note suggests that members in the Carolinas keep an eye out for these "medium-sized parakeets" at bird feeders. Fast forward fifty years and we are still waiting for the birds to arrive! While a few birds have been seen in the Carolinas, with nesting occurring in Brunswick County, NC, the birds never became numerous or established.

General Field Notes include a short description of North Carolina's second report of Reddish Egret. The sighting by James F. Parnell from Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County, NC on September 25, 1971 was accompanied by a photograph that allowed the species to be added to that state's official list. The first record is noted to have been in Charlotte on 21 July 1947. Reddish Egret is now an annual species at preferred locations, mainly inlet flats, along the North and South Carolina coasts.

Finally, Eloise F. Potter published a short note in which she interprets the behavior of a male American Robin seen repeatedly mounting a pine cone.

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:
https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/

The Chat

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CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes to the extent allowable. Pay dues or make donations at https://carolinabirdclub.org/dues. Make change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to the Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at https://carolinabirdclub.org/about.html.

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Individual or non-profit	$30.00
Family	$35.00
Student	$15.00
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Patron	$50.00 and up
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive $100 installments)	$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member)	$100.00

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Cover: Black Guillemot, 17 Dec 2022, Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County NC. Photograph by Liling Warren.

2022 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

J. Edward Corey III [1], Chair, Lucas R. Bobay, Jacob A. Farmer, Ryan Justice, J. Dwayne Martin, Martina A. Nordstrand, Brian J. O'Shea, Jeffrey S. Pippen, Joshua L. Southern

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For 2022, the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) included the additions of Jacob A. Farmer, Ryan Justice, and J. Dwayne Martin as voting members, as well as Brian J. O'Shea, who filled the vacant seat left by Henry E. Link's departure from the committee in 2021. C. Wilson Cook, Z. Taylor Piephoff, and Steven P. Shultz cycled off for their hiatus of at least one year. Richard J. Davis and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. continued in their capacities as non-voting advisors.

Accepted as Valid. The following reports were judged to be acceptable.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*) (21-07). The NCBRC unanimously accepted (9-0) a thorough report of Wedge-tailed Shearwater from the Gulf Stream waters off Hatteras Inlet in *Dare* County, on 22 May 2021. This well-documented light-morph individual, more commonly found in tropical waters of the Pacific, represents the first record for the species in North Carolina as well as the North Atlantic, and only the second from the entire Atlantic Basin.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater, 22 May 2021, off Hatteras Inlet (Dare County), NC. Photograph by Kate Sutherland.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater, 22 May 2021, off Hatteras Inlet (Dare County), NC. Photograph by Kate Sutherland.

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) (22-01). The fifth report of Pacific Golden-Plover, presumed by some to represent the same individual over 4 years, was unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. This bird visited the Cape Point area in *Dare* County, like 3 of the previous sightings of the species, with the report coming from 06 July 2022.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (22-02; 22-03). Two reports of Say's Phoebe were unanimously approved by the NCBRC. The *Union* County bird, 22-02, was observed from 10-16 October 2022, which happened to be the day the long-lingering *Guilford* County individual was first noted (22-03). These birds represent the 3rd and 4th records of the species in the Piedmont of NC.

Thick-billed Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) (22-04). A first state record of Thick-billed Longspur was found on 22 October 2021, on the south side of Oregon Inlet in *Dare* County, where it lingered until 29 October. The NCBRC accepted this report unanimously (9-0), based in large part on the many supplemental eBird images from multiple observers.

Thick-billed Longspur, 23 October 2021, at Oregon Inlet (Dare County), NC. Photograph by Bob Lewis.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (22-05). A Lake Hickory (*Alexander/Catawba* Counties) Black-legged Kittiwake reported on 03 November 2021 was accepted unanimously by the NCBRC (9-0). This is the third record for the NC Piedmont, and the second seen on this lake.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) (22-07). A report of a Veery seen and photographed in *Cherokee* County on 07 December 2022 was accepted by the NCBRC with a vote of 9-0. This is the first winter record for this mountain breeder in NC.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (22-08). North Carolina's sixth record of Varied Thrush came from Hickory in *Catawba* County, seen on 14 December 2021. The NCBRC unanimously approved this report (9-0).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) (22-09). The first winter record from the Piedmont for Blackpoll Warbler was found during the Raleigh Christmas Bird Count in *Wake* County on 18 December 2021 and reported via eBird. This bird was well photographed, leading the NCBRC to accept the report with a vote of 9-0.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) (22-11). The state's third confirmed White Wagtail was found on usually restricted Eagle Island in *New Hanover* County on 01 January 2022, by a party with granted access during the Wilmington Christmas Bird Count. The NCBRC voted to approve this report with a vote of 9-0.

White Wagtail, 1 January 2022,
New Hanover County, NC.
Photograph by Jesse Anderson.

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) (22-12). A wintering Yellow Warbler was photographed in Black Mountain (*Buncombe* County), where it remained from 13-20 January 2022. This unanimously approved report (9-0) is the first confirmed record of the species overwintering in the mountains of North Carolina.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (22-13). The first photographed record of Mountain Bluebird was submitted from the Wrightsville Beach area of *New Hanover* County, where it was observed from 11 February to 21 March 2022. This individual was well photographed by many observers and was accepted by the NCBRC unanimously (9-0), moving the species from Provisional to Definitive.

Mountain Bluebird, 13 February 2022,
New Hanover County, NC,
Photograph by Kent Fiala.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) (22-14). A much-anticipated first state record of Heermann's Gull was observed on 12 February 2022, at Mason Inlet in *New Hanover* County. This one-day wonder was seen by multiple observers before disappearing, with a similarly-aged gull of this species making a quick stop at Cape Point in *Dare* County on 15 February, leading the NCBRC to consider both observations as a single record, and accepting the species unanimously (9-0).

Heermann's Gull, 12 February 2022,
New Hanover County, NC.
Photograph by Audrey Whitlock.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (22-16). North Carolina's fifth record of Allen's Hummingbird (and third for the Piedmont) was a returning female, first banded the previous year in *Mecklenburg* County, where it was recaptured on 16 February 2022. The report was accepted with a vote of 8-1 by the NCBRC, with the one dissenting vote concerning the lack of stand-alone identification material in the submission for this report.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (22-18). The third mountain record of Painted Bunting was an adult male found at a feeder in Asheville (*Buncombe* County) in early April of 2022. The NCBRC voted 9-0 to accept the report of this vibrant coastal breeder.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) (22-19). Observers at North River Preserve in *Carteret* County photographed North Carolina's fifth White-tailed Kite on 08 April 2022. The NCBRC approved this record by unanimous vote (9-0).

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) (22-22). The second state record of Heermann's Gull was found at multiple sites in *Dare* County between 20 May and 23 May 2022. Likely the same individual as first observed in February of the same year, the NCBRC decided to treat this as a separate report, approving the record unanimously (9-0).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*) (22-23). A 24 July 2022 observation of Crested Caracara came from Cedar Island in *Carteret* County. Though no photographs were taken, the NCBRC voted in favor of accepting this report 8-1, with one vote concerned with inadequate documentation. This becomes the second accepted record of this species in North Carolina.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianus*) (22-24). North Carolina's second Neotropic Cormorant was discovered on 30 July 2022 at Martin Marietta Park in New Bern (*Craven* County), where it remained until at least 13 October. With a vote of 9-0, the NCBRC unanimously accepted this report.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (22-25). A Lark Bunting was found on the south side of Oregon Inlet in *Dare* County on 23 September 2022. The report and supplemental eBird checklist (with photos) led to a vote of 9-0 by the NCBRC to approve this record, the seventh for the state and the first since 1991.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (22-26). An astounding observation of Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Lake Crabtree in *Wake* County on 01 October 2022, after the passage of Tropical Storm Ian, becomes the fifth record for the state, and the first from the Piedmont. This brief visitor to the Triangle was accepted unanimously (9-0) by the NCBRC.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) (22-27). Another bird displaced by Tropical Storm Ian on 01 October 2022 was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel seen and captured on video at Jordan Lake in *Chatham* County. This becomes the first accepted report of the species in the Piedmont, with an NCBRC vote of 9-0.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (22-29). EBird reports of Vermilion Flycatcher from Bald Head Island in *Brunswick* County on 19 October 2022 were accepted by a vote of 9-0. Though observers reported 2 individual males (which would have been a high count for the species in the state), the NCBRC did not feel that this could be confirmed from the evidence submitted.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) (22-30; 22-31). October 2022 proved to be a good month for sightings of Black-throated Gray Warbler in the Coastal Plain of NC. EBird reports from *Chowan* County on 16 October (22-30) and *New Hanover* County on 30 October (22-31) were both approved unanimously by the NCBRC, 9-0. These birds represent the seventh and eighth records for the state, with the majority of those coming from the Coastal Plain.

Not Accepted. The following reports were judged to be inadequate for acceptance.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (18-21). A late report of a Gray Kingbird from *Wake* County from 15 September 2018 was deemed unacceptable by the Committee, with a vote of 4-5. The majority of those voting against felt that the bird in question was an Eastern Kingbird, with one member voting the documentation as inadequate.

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) (22-06). A 25 November 2021 report of Lesser Nighthawk from the causeway to Figure Eight Island in *New Hanover* County was rejected by the NCBRC with a vote of 4-5, with those not accepting doing so due to inadequate documentation. While no one argued that it was a different species, multiple Committee members felt that the burden of proof to confidently rule out other nighthawks was not met by the observer, particularly for a second NC record.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) (22-10). Two observers submitted details regarding a potential Arctic Loon seen during the Hatteras Christmas Bird Count on 27 December 2021, from Cape Point in *Dare* County. Though the NCBRC applauded the detailed notes from both observers, this report was not accepted by a vote of 1-8, with those dissenting arguing that the observers did not adequately eliminate other species of loons. This level of detail would be especially important for a first state record, and one of very few reports from the Atlantic Coast.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (22-15). A mid-winter eBird report of a Yellow-nosed Albatross from Cape Point in *Dare* County on 13 February 2022 received a vote of 4-5, with those against rejecting the report due to inadequate documentation. The bird in question was seen in poor conditions at a great distance, and the images provided in the checklist were not considered adequate by members to rule out other albatross species.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) (22-21). A 10 May 2022 report of a Lazuli Bunting from *Wake* County was not accepted by the NCBRC, with 2 votes for Inadequately Documented and 4 members arguing the bird in question was a female Indigo Bunting with buffier than usual wingbars.

Great Blue Heron (white morph; *Ardea herodias*, in part) (22-28). A Great White Heron, a color morph of the common Great Blue Heron, was submitted from J. Morgan Futch Game Land in *Tyrrell* County on 28 August 2022. The NCBRC rejected this report, with 1 voting the report as Inadequately Documented, while 8 judged that the bird observed was a Great Egret instead.

Unresolved – Outside Review Pending. Whenever an initial report receives a majority of acceptance votes, but also receives two or more non-acceptance votes, it gets sent for outside review, whereafter a simple majority will suffice for approval.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (22-17). A review of an eBird report of a Cave Swallow from *Transylvania* County on 20 March 2022 resulted in a vote of 7-2, with 2 NCBRC members considering this an unacceptable sighting. Concern was voiced over whether this could be a juvenile Cliff Swallow, or another member of the family Hirundinidae.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (22-20). A second 2022 report of Yellow-nosed Albatross from the Cape Point area of *Dare* County, by the same observer, on 23 April came with clearer images of the bird in question. NCBRC members voted 7-2 in favor of acceptance, with those objecting on the basis that the observer did not adequately eliminate other less likely species of albatross.

Summary

With this round of voting, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Thick-billed Longspur, and Heermann's Gull are directly added to the Definitive List. Acceptance of photos moves Mountain Bluebird from the Provisional List to the Definitive List. Thus, the Definitive List moves from 479 species at the end of 2021 to now 483 species. The Provisional List drops by one (Mountain Bluebird) to 11 species.

Literature Cited

LeGrand, H., J. Haire, N. Swick, and T. Howard. 2023. *Birds of North Carolina: their Distribution and Abundance* [Internet]. Raleigh (NC): North Carolina Biodiversity Project and North Carolina State Parks. Available from http://ncbirds.carolinabirdclub.org.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2022-2023, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1–February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1–May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1–July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1–November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location) and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

All place names preceding NC/SC, also in italics, are counties.

Snow Goose: One at Meat Camp Creek ESA *Watauga* NC 9 Jan (Peter Jones, m. obs.) and, likely the same individual, in neighboring southern *Ashe* NC 1-4 Feb (Sandy Sanders, m. obs.) was unusual for the northwestern corner of the state.

Ross's Goose: A few were seen in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Hyde/Washington* NC 22 Nov (Lori White, et al.) intermittently through 1 Feb (Ron Clark, Jim Guyton), with a high count of six made there 13 Jan (Carl & Cathy Miller). Elsewhere, individuals were seen in Minnesott Beach *Pamlico* NC 30 Nov through 1 Dec (Christine Stoughton Root, m. obs.), near Kernersville *Forsyth* NC 4-10 Dec (Nathan & Sarah Gatto, m. obs.), near Tillery *Halifax* NC 18 Dec (Ricky Davis), at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 4 Jan through 24 Feb (Aaron Steed, m. obs.), in Wilkesboro *Wilkes* NC 7 Jan through 4 Mar (Dale Reynolds, m. obs.), in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 9 Jan (Matt Rivers), in Beaufort *Carteret* NC 16-27 Jan (Marty Wall, m. obs.), near Ridgeville *Dorchester* SC 18 Jan (Brittany Puite), near Antreville *Abbeville* SC 28-31 Jan (John Patten Moss, m. obs.), in Spruce Pine *Avery* NC 15-21 Feb (Dennis Smith, m. obs.), and in north-central *Greenville* SC 28 Feb through 4 Mar (Laura Harris, Simon Harvey, m. obs.). Pairs were seen in Mills River *Henderson* NC 2-10 Dec (Michael Plauché, m. obs.) and near Tarboro *Edgecombe* NC 18 Dec through 2 Jan (Trevor Sleight, m. obs.).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sightings included one in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 3 Dec (Gus Messinides) and 5 Dec (Ron Ahle), four at Swann WTP *Forsyth* NC 25 Dec (Nathan & Sarah Gatto), two at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC during its CBC 30 Jan (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock), two in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Hyde/Washington* NC 4 Jan (Heather Russell) and 6 Jan (Sarah Toner), one in Hertford *Perquimans* NC 19 Jan (Jamie Adams), four just southeast of *Columbia* Richland SC 8 Jan through 1 Feb (Michelle Wilcox, m. obs.), and four in Brevard *Transylvania* NC 26 Jan through 28 Feb (Karen Hogan, Michael Plauché, m. obs.).

Barnacle x Cackling Goose: A presumed hybrid of a Barnacle Goose and a Cackling Goose was seen and photographed among a flock of Canada and Cackling Geese at a pond along US-64 just east of Creswell *Washington* NC 17-26 Feb (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.).

Cackling Goose: Nine at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 17 Dec (Jacob Annis, Sam Cooper) and ten at a pond along US-64 just east of Creswell *Washington* NC 26 Feb (Chip Davis, Dale Lambert) were notable counts. One seen along the Duck Park Boardwalk *Dare* NC 26 Dec through 13 Jan (Mary Alice Hayward, m. obs.) was unusual for that stretch of coast.

Trumpeter Swan: One was photographed at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 30 Jan (Walt Jenkins). One was first heard and then seen among a large flock of Tundra Swans in agricultural fields along NC-42 in southeastern *Edgecombe* NC 5 Feb (Ricky Davis).

Tundra Swan: 12 seen in flight over Stafford Gap *Madison* NC 17 Dec (Connie Toops) was a remarkable count for the mountain region. Unusual for the Triad area of NC was an immature individual at Lake Brandt *Guilford* 20 Dec (Robin Toler) and Salem Lake

Forsyth 26 Dec (Paul Beerman, m. obs.), and an adult individual at Lake Townsend *Guilford* 27 Dec (Elizabeth & Henry Link, m. obs.), at Lake Brandt 28-29 Dec (James Pretzsch, m. obs.), and near Kernersville *Forsyth* 4-6 Jan (Paul Nielson, m. obs.). A flock of an estimated 7000 in agricultural fields along NC-42 in southeastern *Edgecombe* NC 5 Feb (Ricky Davis) was a notable count away from a wildlife refuge.

Eurasian Wigeon: Individual drakes were seen at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), in southern *Georgetown* SC during the Winyah Bay CBC 15 Dec (Elizabeth Anderegg, et al.), at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 17 Dec (Jacob Annis, Sam Cooper) and intermittently into February (m. obs.), and in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 8-9 Jan (Carl & Cathy Miller, m. obs.).

Common Eider: Eiders were few and far between this winter. Three in flight off Figure Eight Island *New Hanover* NC 24 Dec (Derb Carter) was the high count.

Harlequin Duck: First-winter drakes were seen around the Bonner Bridge Fishing Pier *Dare* NC 22 Nov through 1 Jan (Daniel Irons, m. obs.) and, possibly the same individual, around the jetty at Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 3-20 Feb (Clyde Atkins, Marty Wall, m. obs.).

Harlequin Duck, 28 Dec 2022, Dare County NC.
Photograph by Ian McDonald.

Surf Scoter: There was a short flurry of sightings on inland lakes 9-11 Dec including one on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 9 -11 Dec (Michael Plauché, m. obs.), eight on Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 10 Dec (John Haire, m. obs.), six at Swann WTP *Forsyth* NC 10 Dec (Haire), and 24, a remarkable count for the mountain region, on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 11 Dec (Kirstin Shrode, m. obs.).

White-winged Scoter: Inland sightings included four on Lake Hartwell *Anderson/Oconee* SC 22 Dec (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.), one on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 27 Dec (Matt Wangerin, et al.), one at YMCA Camp Harrison *Wilkes* NC 1 Jan (Guy McGrane, Maxwell Ramey), one at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 5 Feb and nearby Lake Raleigh 6-15 Feb (Len O'Toole, m. obs.), and five on Lake Townsend 4 Feb (Wangerin, et al.).

Long-tailed Duck: Inland sightings involved one on Moss Lake *Cleveland* NC 12 Dec (Kade Lockhart), one on John D. Long Lake *Union* SC 16-17 Dec (Debra & Steve Patterson, m. obs.), three on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 4 Feb (Zane Fish, m. obs.), and one on Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 4-5 Feb (Matt Wangerin, m. obs.).

Common Merganser: This species made a moderate push into NC in late December into January, likely because of below-freezing temperatures to the north. One seen and photographed at Luther Britt Park in Lumberton *Robeson* NC 8-23 Jan (Eric Graham, m. obs.) was unusual for that area and a first for that county. Farthest south were two photographed on the Tugaloo River in *Oconee* SC 19 Jan (Jason Corder), though that pair may have wandered from a breeding area in the neighboring NC mountains. 600 on Lake Phelps *Washington* NC 13 Jan (Derb Carter, m. obs.) was this winter's high count.

Red-breasted Merganser: 59 on Lake Summit *Henderson* NC 11 Dec (Kevin Burke), 100 on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 14 Dec (Jim Tolbert), and 55 on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 15 Dec (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) were notable counts for the mountain region.

Red-necked Grebe: Individuals were seen on Thurmond Reservoir *McCormick* SC 26 Nov through 4 Dec (Mac McCall, John Patten Moss, Sam Murray, m. obs.), on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 1 Dec (Heather Buttonow), on Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 4-12 Dec (John Haire, m. obs.), on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 5-6 Dec (Mark Montazer, m. obs.), on Lake Norman in *Iredell* NC 18 Dec (Jeff Lemons, Dennis Kent), on Lake Hartwell *Oconee* SC 17-21 Jan (Vicky Burke, Bill Hooker, m. obs.), and again on Jordan Lake 21-26 Jan (Brian Strassburger, m. obs.).

Eared Grebe: Sightings included two at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC during the Savannah CBC 2 Jan (Steve Calver), one in the Seaforth arm of Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 15 Jan through 22 Feb (Dale Lambert, Scott Mullens, m. obs.), and one near the jetty at Ft Fisher SP *Carteret* NC 21 Feb (Marty Wall).

Western Grebe: One photographed on Lake Norman *Iredell/Mecklenburg* NC during the Southern Lake Norman CBC 18 Dec (Jeff Lemons, Dennis Kent) was an excellent find,

almost certainly the same individual photographed about 30 miles downstream on Lake Wylie *York* SC 19-21 Dec (John Demchak, m. obs.).

White-crowned Pigeon: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent White-crowned Pigeon perched on a powerline in Carolina Beach *New Hanover* NC during the Wilmington CBC 31 Dec (Jesse Anderson). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this Caribbean pigeon anywhere in the Carolinas.

White-winged Dove: Four seen together at Patriot's Point *Charleston* SC 29-30 Dec (Matt Johnson, m. obs.) was a remarkable concentration for the Carolinas. Individuals briefly visited five other sites along the southern half of our coast December and January.

Chuck-will's-widow: One photographed along Lighthouse Rd at Cape Point *Dare* NC just before dawn 19 Dec (Daniel Irons) was a great find for winter.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: One recorded singing in Francis Marion National Forest *Berkeley* SC 28 Feb (Brad Sale) was early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A few of the higher counts made on CBCs along the coast were 23 in northern *Dare* NC during the Kitty Hawk CBC 17 Dec (*fide* Jeff Lewis), 27 in southern *Dare* NC during the Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (*fide* Karen Lebing, Pat Moore), nine in *Georgetown* SC during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill), and 12 in *Charleston* SC during the Sea Islands CBC 3 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given). Farthest inland this winter were two, a female and an adult male, visiting a feeder near downtown Raleigh *Wake* NC in December and January (*fide* Susan Campbell).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Individuals were seen and photographed in Plantersville *Georgetown* SC 7 Dec (Mandy & Mark Johnson), visiting a feeder in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 25 Dec through 6 Feb (Craig Watson, m. obs.), and visiting a feeder on James Island *Georgetown* SC 21 Jan through 3 Apr (Dennis Forsythe).

Rufous Hummingbird: Individuals were reported at dozens of sites this winter, mostly in the first half of the period, with over a dozen captured for banding in NC alone (*fide* Susan Campbell). One visiting a feeder in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 27 Dec through 4 Feb (Tom Austin, Alison Smith, m. obs.) was unusual for a site near the coast in mid-winter. One successfully over-wintered in the Bean Tract of Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC for a third year in a row (Dwayne Martin).

Allen's Hummingbird: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent immature male Allen's Hummingbird visiting a feeder on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 26 Feb (Andy Jones, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide SC its second record.

Anna's x Allen's Hummingbird: A very rare hybrid of an Anna's Hummingbird and an Allen's Hummingbird was identified after being captured for measurement and banding at a home in Concord *Cabarrus* NC 7 Feb (Susan Campbell). The juvenile male, first identified as an Allen's Hummingbird, visited a feeder at the home from mid-December

through 14 Feb (Connie & Doyle Bussey) and is the first confirmed hybrid hummingbird ever documented in the Carolinas.

Anna's x Allen's Hummingbird, 8 Feb 2023, Concord, Cabarrus County NC. Photograph by Patty Masten. Note silver band on right leg.

Sora: One at Conestee Nature Park *Greenville* SC 15 Jan through 2 Feb (Simon Harvey, Michael Robertson, m. obs.) was unusual for upstate SC in mid-winter.

Limpkin: Ten at a suburban retention pond in southern *Horry* SC 25 Jan (Dawne Dunton), near the site where breeding was confirmed in May 2021 and May 2022, was a notable count.

Sandhill Crane: Three photographed in northbound flight over Hump Mountain Peak *Avery* NC 18 Feb (Jedda Levy) were unusual for our northern mountains. Also notable were counts of up to 15 in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Hyde/Washington* NC intermittently through the winter (m. obs.), 16 in northern *Edgecombe* NC during the Rocky Mount CBC 16 Dec (Brain Bockhahn), 11 in *Guilford* NC during the Greensboro CBC 17 Dec (Matt Wangerin), 31 in flight over Calhoun Falls SP *Abbeville* SC 28 Dec (Irvin Pitts), three at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 29 Dec through 12 Jan (Vicky Burke, Jay Wherley, m. obs.), and eight in a field near Delway *Sampson* NC 1-8 Feb (Marshall Quinn, m. obs.). The high count this winter was 110 in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 17 Feb (Denise DuPon, et al.).

Black-necked Stilt: Two at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 27-28 Dec (Zane Fish, m. obs.) and, possibly the same pair of birds, at Mattamuskeet NWR *Hyde* NC 8 Feb (Abby Bourne) were very unusual for NC in winter.

American Avocet: Two at Singing Pines Recreation Area on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 29 Dec (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.) were unusual for a site so far from the coast in winter.

Long-billed Curlew: Three at the mouth of Big Bay Creek in Edisto Beach *Colleton* SC 4 Dec (Lisa Cumming, Elizabeth & Jonathan Anderegg) was a good count.

Bar-tailed Godwit: The individual seen on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC in the latter half of fall continued at that site through winter and into spring (m. obs.).

Stilt Sandpiper: Two photographed in a flooded field along NC-33 just east of Aurora *Beaufort* NC 25-30 Dec (Trevor Sleight) were an excellent find for NC in winter. One seen and photographed along the Murrells Inlet Boardwalk *Georgetown* SC 15 Jan (Joe Donahue, et al.) was unusual for the northern SC coast in mid-winter. In southernmost SC, the only area of the Carolinas where this species regularly lingers/over-winters, 28 were seen at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 30 Dec (Steve Calver).

Purple Sandpiper: 61 on the north jetty at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 24 Jan (Wayne Hoffman) was a notable count.

Least Sandpiper: 50 at McAlpine WTP *Mecklenburg* NC during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Matt Janson, et al.) and 37 at Eighteenmile Creek *Anderson* SC 29 Dec (Kevin Kubach) were good counts for the Piedmont region in winter.

Long-billed Dowitcher: A flock of 72, identified by call, in a flooded field along NC-33 just east of Aurora *Beaufort* NC 30 Dec (Trevor Sleight) was a notable count for that area. The winter's high count was 400 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC during the Savannah CBC 2 Jan (Lauren Morgens, Matthew Sarver).

Greater Yellowlegs: Six at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 19-22 Dec, with five remaining through 2 Jan (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.) was a notable count for upstate SC in winter.

Red-necked Phalarope: One photographed among a flock of Red Phalaropes during a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 5 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was extremely unusual for winter.

Red Phalarope: A total of 3152 seen on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 28 Jan (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a remarkable count.

Great Skua: One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 20 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.)

Pomarine Jaeger: Pending review by the SC BRC is the report of a Pomarine Jaeger at Thurmond Reservoir *McCormick* SC 3 Dec (John Patten Moss, Sam Murray). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this species at an inland site during the winter.

Dovekie: The only sightings this winter were made on two pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC in late February, with 34 seen on 19 Feb and four seen on 26 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Common Murre: Fantastic numbers were had on pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC in February—44 on 9 Feb, 47 on 15 Feb, and 66 on 19 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.), all new record high counts for the Carolinas. One along the jetty at Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 10-12 Feb (Jamie Adams, m. obs.) and 12 off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 28 Feb (Andrew Thornton) were notable from shore.

Thick-billed Murre: One around Johnnie Mercer's Pier *New Hanover* NC 28 Jan (Sam Cooper, David Wilson, et al.) was a great find from shore. On pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC, one was seen 9 Feb, three were seen 19 Feb, and one was seen 20 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Razorbill: Numbers peaked in mid-February with counts of 1650 on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 9 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) and 1570, most in southbound flight, off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 17 Feb (Andrew Thornton).

Black Guillemot: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Black Guillemot around the pilings of Johnnie Mercer's Pier *New Hanover* NC 17-19 Dec (Wayne Hoffman, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the fifth record for NC.

Black Guillemot, 17 Dec 2022, Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County NC. Photograph by Liling Warren.

Atlantic Puffin: 222 on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 19 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a fantastic count.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report of two adult Black-legged Kittiwakes seen in flight over Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 11 Dec (Nathaniel Axtell). If accepted, the report would provide the second record for the mountain region. A first-winter individual stuck around awhile at Johnnie Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC 8-21 Dec (Wayne Hoffman, m. obs.). 41, six adults and 35 first-winter birds, in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 Dec (Daniel Irons) was a notable count. A first-winter individual seen at Murrells Inlet Georgetown SC 23 Dec (Jack Rogers) was notable for SC.

Black-headed Gull: The adult seen around Mason Inlet *New Hanover* NC beginning 7 Nov (Jamie Adams) continued intermittently through 20 Feb (Ann Stinely). A first-winter individual was seen and photographed on the beach near Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 5-12 Dec (Jason Bojczyk, m. obs.).

Little Gull: Counts of two off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 25 Feb (Ed Corey) and 27 Feb (Andrew Thornton) were notable from shore. Four, all adults, on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 19 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was this winter's high count.

Laughing Gull: Nine, all adults, on Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 11 Dec (Harry LeGrand) were notable for the Piedmont region in winter.

Franklin's Gull: An adult individual seen and photographed at Cape Point *Dare* NC 8-19 Dec (Daniel Irons) was a great find for winter.

Heermann's Gull: An adult, likely the same individual seen at multiple sites along the coast the past two years, was seen and photographed in Folly Beach *Charleston* SC 5 Jan (Kevin Wistrom) and in Caswell Beach *Brunswick* NC 25 Feb (Cole Tiemann, m. obs.).

Herring Gull: Four on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 9 Dec (David Fischer) was a notable count for the mountain region. 14 on Lake Robinson *Greenville* SC 26 Dec (Samuel Payne) was a notable count for upstate SC.

Iceland Gull: Individuals were seen at multiple sites in *Dare* NC including at Oregon Inlet 12 Dec through 4 Jan (Pat Draisey, m. obs.), at Pea Island NWR 20 Jan through 18 Feb (Alicia Bachman, m. obs.), and at Cape Point 11 Dec through 25 Jan (Jeff Lewis, m. obs.). Two distinct individuals were photographed at Cape Point 13 Jan (Bob Lewis).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Farthest inland this winter were individuals on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 5 Dec (Matt Wangerin), on Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 17 Dec (Josh Mrozowski), on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 19 Dec (Patty Masten, et al.), on Lake Robinson *Greenville* SC 26-27 Dec (Samuel Payne), and on Rankin Lake *Gaston* NC 3 Feb (Chris Huffstickler).

Glaucous Gull: Individuals were photographed at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 20 Dec (Daniel Irons), at Cape Point *Dare* NC 14 Jan (Taylor Piephoff, et al.), and at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 16 Jan (Wayne Lewis).

Red-throated Loon: One photographed on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 29 Dec (Fleeta Chauvigne, Mark Simon) was the only inland report this winter.

Pacific Loon: Two on Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 1 Dec (Henry Link, m. obs.) was a remarkable report, as all previous inland sightings have been of individuals. One seen on the ocean in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 12 Dec (Jeff Lewis) was unusual for that stretch of the coast. Individuals were seen at multiple sites in *New Hanover* NC from Rich Inlet 24-25 Dec (Derb Carter) south to Masonboro Inlet 11-21 Feb (Sam Cooper, m. obs.). Three around Johnnie Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC 17 Dec (Jamie Adams, Derb Carter, m. obs.) was the high count.

Northern Fulmar: 130 on a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 26 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a notable count.

Sooty Shearwater: Individuals seen from Cape Point *Dare* NC 22 Dec (Daniel Irons) and during a pelagic trip out of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 5 Feb (Brian Patteson, et al.) were unusual for winter.

Great Shearwater: Two off Cape Point *Dare* NC 15 Dec (Daniel Irons) and individuals there 22 Dec (Irons) and 25 Jan (Michael Gosselin, Andrew Thornton) were unusual for winter.

Manx Shearwater: One to two around Wrightsville Beach and Figure Eight Island *New Hanover* NC 9-18 Dec (Jesse Anderson, m. obs.) were unusual for that stretch of the coast.

Great Cormorant: Peak counts were five at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 31 Dec (Jacob Annis, Sam Cooper) and six at Beaufort Inlet at Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 6-17 Feb (Marty Wall, m. obs.).

American White Pelican: Below the High Rock Dam *Davidson*/*Rowan* NC, a regular aggregation site for the species in late winter, sightings began 16 Jan (Brenda Hiles) and numbers peaked about a month later with 116 there 15 Feb (Greg Hays). 300 at North Inlet *Georgetown* SC 19 Jan (Jack & Janet Volker, et al.) was a remarkable count.

Least Bittern: One at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 4 Jan through 4 Feb (Erinn Szarek, m. obs.) was unusual for the northern SC coast in mid-winter.

Green Heron: At sites away from the coast, individuals lingered into early winter at Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC from late November through 21 Dec (m. obs.), at Patterson Place *Durham* NC 5-16 Dec (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.), at Heritage Lake *York* SC 27-29 Dec (Cindy Stacy, m. obs.), along Swamp Rd in *Cumberland* NC during its CBC 2 Jan (Brian Bockhahn), and in *Greenwood* SC 3-7 Jan (Julie Hobbs).

Osprey: One photographed along the Tuckasegee River in Bryson City *Swain* NC 27 Dec (Graham Norman) was rather late for a site in the mountain region. One seen at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 21 Feb (John Koon, m. obs.) likely was an early spring arrival.

Swainson's Hawk: An intermediate-morph juvenile was seen and photographed at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 4-20 Feb (Walt Jenkins, m. obs.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Up to two were heard calling along the entrance road to the Bodie Island Lighthouse *Dare* NC 4 Dec through 19 Feb (m. obs.). One recorded calling southeast of Monroe *Union* NC 17 Feb (Paula Ford) was unusual for that area.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Individuals were seen and photographed at Sturgeon City Park in Jacksonville *Onslow* NC 6 Dec (John Lynch), along Sawyer Lake Rd at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 30 Dec intermittently through 19 Feb (Alan MacEachren, m. obs.), at North River Farms *Carteret* NC 3 Jan (Curtiss Merrick, Marty Wall), and along Long Curve Rd at Alligator River NWR 25 Jan through 6 Feb (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.).

Great Crested Flycatcher: An individual photographed near the Bonner Bridge Fishing Pier *Dare* NC 19 Dec (Galen Goodrum, et al.) and, very likely the same individual, photographed four miles south at North Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 2 Jan (Mary Hays) was incredibly late, the latest ever documented in fall/winter in the Carolinas.

Western Kingbird: Individuals seen along Compton Rd in northern *Orange* NC 17-19 Dec (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel, m. obs.) and at Hank Anderson Park *Orange* NC 8 Jan (Lucretia Kinney) were unusual for the Piedmont. Closer to the coast, individuals were seen on Harbor Island *Beaufort* SC 16-17 Dec (Erinn Szarek, Jenn Clementoni), at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 17 Dec intermittently into spring (Jordan Juzdowski, m. obs.), in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 17-23 Dec (Michelle Forte, m. obs.), at the Wright Brothers Memorial *Dare* NC 21 Dec (David True), at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 12 Jan (David McLean), on Daufuskie Island *Beaufort* SC 27 Jan (Mark Levine), and at Patriots Point *Charleston* SC 4 Feb (Andrew Lydeard). Sightings of multiple birds included two on Fripp Island *Beaufort* SC 11 Jan through 8 Feb (Susan Frost, m. obs.), three at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 13 Jan (Debra & Steve Patterson, et al.), and two at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 16 Jan (John Cox), 24 Jan through 6 Feb (Charles Donnelly, m. obs.) and 28 Feb through 1 Mar (m. obs.).

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher: The "Western Flycatcher" found at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 26 Nov (Ann Stinely) continued at that site through 25 Dec (Jeff Blalock).

***Empidonax* sp.**: An *Empidonax* flycatcher, likely a Least Flycatcher, seen and photographed at Lake Busbee *Horry* SC 29-30 Jan (Erin Szarek) may have been the same *Empidonax* flycatcher seen at that site last winter.

Say's Phoebe: The individual seen along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC in fall continued in that area throughout the winter and into spring (m. obs.).

White-eyed Vireo: Farthest inland this winter were individuals at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment *Durham* NC 8 Dec (Ryne VanKrevelen) and 16 Feb (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel), in southern *Greenville* SC 16 Jan (Laura Harris, Simon Harvey), and at Beaverdam Creek WMA *Anderson* SC 28 Jan (Brian Barchus) and 22 Feb (Scott Davis).

Yellow-throated Vireo: One photographed at Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 10 Dec (Daniel Irons) was extraordinarily late, the latest ever documented with photos in fall/winter in the Carolinas.

Blue-headed Vireo: 31 in *Hyde* NC during the Mattamuskeet NWR CBC 29 Dec (*fide* Susan Campbell, Marc Ribaudo) and 44 in *Georgetown* SC during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill) were record high counts for those CBCs.

Warbling Vireo: One seen and photographed near the boat ramp at Pettigrew SP *Washington* NC 10 Dec (Jeff Beane, Ed Corey, et al.) was an excellent find in winter.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Individuals lingered into early winter at Buckhorn Reservoir *Wilson* NC 2 Dec (Martina Nordstrand, m. obs.), at Angus Barn Pond *Wake* NC 21 Dec (Lori Arent, Harry LeGrand), in southern *Mecklenburg* NC during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Nordstrand, et al.), in northeastern *York* SC during the Charlotte CBC 26 Dec (Nordstrand, et al.), and at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 31 Dec (Thierry Besancon, m. obs.). A report of eight, one photographed, at Outlet Pointe WTP *Lexington* SC 22 Dec (Alison Davies) is an amazing count for winter. One seen near the dam at Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 9 Feb (Irvin Pitts) had either lingered through much of the winter or was incredibly early. Individuals at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 26 Feb (Frank Porter) and along Hayes Rd in *Union* NC 26 Feb (Dennis Kent) were early spring arrivals.

Barn Swallow: One photographed around the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal *Carteret* NC 23 Dec (Marty Wall) was a great find in winter.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Farthest inland this winter were two at Jetton Park *Mecklenburg* NC during the Southern Lake Norman CBC 18 Dec (Steve Coggin, et al.).

Sedge Wren: 92 in *Colleton/Charleston* SC during the ACE Basin CBC 1 Jan (*fide* David Chamberlain) was a record number for that CBC. Three along the Prairie Trail at McDowell Nature Preserve *Mecklenburg* NC 12 Jan (Larry Brown) was a notable count for the Piedmont region in mid-winter.

Marsh Wren: One seen and photographed near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 18-19 Dec (Nick Accardo, et al.) was very late for the mountain region. Unusual for upstate SC was one that likely over-wintered at Conestee Nature Preserve *Greenville* SC, seen at the same location 13-19 Dec (Simon Harvey), 18 Jan (Jason Taylor), and 25 Feb (Mike Spinelli). 81 at Cheeha-Combahee Plantation *Colleton* SC 26 Dec (Lauren Morgens, Matthew Sarver) was a notable count.

Evening Grosbeak: This large finch made a small irruption into NC this winter, reported at about a dozen sites in the northern mountains and Piedmont regions. 50 at Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment *Durham* NC 4 Dec (Lori Arent, et al.) with 44 continuing there 16 Feb (Noah Rokoske) was the high count.

Purple Finch: This finch made a moderate irruption into the Carolinas this winter. A few of the higher counts were 59 at Prairie Ridge Ecostation *Wake* NC 21 Dec (Jeff Beane), 50 at Riverbend Park *Catawba* NC 8 Jan (Dwayne Martin), and 54 at Hilton Pond *York* SC 17 Jan (Bill Hilton).

Red Crossbill: Sightings were made at a few sites in the northern NC Piedmont including along Transis Camp Rd in northeastern *Chatham* NC where a flock of up to 20 crossbills was seen 26 Dec through 23 Feb (Marc Ribaudo, m. obs.).

Lapland Longspur: Sightings included one at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 3 Dec (Jason Bojczyk), one at Prater Farm *Anderson* SC 7 Dec (Simon Harvey), one at Pea Island NWR 26-30 Dec (Julian Avery, m. obs.), and two in agricultural fields south of Allendale *Allendale* SC 30 Dec (Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine).

Snow Bunting: The individual found at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 28 Nov (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel) was joined by a second Snow Bunting 2-15 Dec (Mark DiGiovanni, m. obs.) with one continuing through 24 Jan (Karen Szafrajda). Two were seen on the beach just north of Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 2-4 Dec (Michael Gosselin, m. obs.).

Grasshopper Sparrow: One photographed in Sandhills Game Land *Scotland* NC 15 Jan and 18 Feb (Jeff Beane, Stephanie Horton) was a good find for that area in winter.

Lark Sparrow: Individuals were seen around the Old Coast Guard Station at Oregon Inlet *Dare* NC 28 Nov through 1 Dec (Daniel Irons), in eastern *Bamberg* SC 26 Dec (David Dobson), and in Elizabeth City *Pasquotank* NC 15 Jan through 19 Feb (Lori Arent, m. obs.).

American Tree Sparrow: One photographed on private land in southwestern *Rockingham* NC 13 Jan (Chris Marsh, Ann Robertson) was the first documented in the Carolinas since 2014.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Individuals were reported at eight sites in the Piedmont and coastal plain December through early January. One photographed at Mason Farm Biological Reserve *Orange* NC 26 Feb (Fleeta Chauvigne) was unusual for the Piedmont region in late winter.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Individuals were seen at seven sites along or near the coast in December and January. One seen along the Saluda Riverwalk *Richland* SC 29 Jan (John Grego) was unusual for a site away from the coast in late winter.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An adult male was photographed at a feeder in Trent Woods *Craven* NC 14 Jan (Zachary Tyndall).

Bullock's Oriole: Sightings, all of individuals visiting feeders, involved an adult male in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 29 Nov through 31 Dec (Pam Ford, Craig Watson, m. obs.), an immature male in Rock Hill *York* SC 6-13 Jan (C.L. Mobley, m. obs.), and an immature male in *Spartanburg* SC 6 Jan through 22 Feb (Anne McChesney, m. obs.).

Brewer's Blackbird: A few of the higher counts in SC were 22 at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* 19 Dec (Scott Davis), 27 in *Allendale* 2 Jan (Andrew Lydeard), and 15 along Goat Island Rd in *Clarendon* 13 Jan (Matt Rivers). Two males were seen at several sites around Brevard *Transylvania* NC 2-25 Jan (Nathaniel Axtell, Michael Plauché, Frank Porter, m. obs.).

Ovenbird: Lingering into early winter in wooded areas along the coast was one in Kitty Hawk Woods *Dare* NC 9 Dec (Jeff Lewis) and 17 Dec (Al Hooks), eight in Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 10 Dec (Daniel Irons), one at Charles Towne Landing *Charleston* SC 21 Dec (Marc Regnier), and four in Buxton Woods during the Hatteras CBC 27 Dec (*fide* Karen Lebing, Pat Moore). An individual banded on the western end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 4 Sep 2022 lingered at that site through at least 18 Jan when last recaptured (*fide* Aaron Given). One successfully over-wintered in Manteo *Dare* NC, seen visiting a feeder 15 Dec intermittently into March (Pat Draisey). Individuals seen at West Ashley Park *Charleston* SC 1 Feb (Jordan Juzdowski) and at Buxton Woods 19 Feb (Roger Shaw) and 25 Feb (Andrew Thornton) likely over-wintered.

Northern Waterthrush: As usual, a few lingered into the first half of winter at sites in southernmost SC. This year's sightings included one in *Charleston* SC during the James Island CBC 31 Dec (*fide* Lesa Jones, Kathy Woolsey), two at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jan (Lauren Morgens, Matthew Sarver), one in northern *Beaufort* SC 5 Jan (Jake Zadik), and one at Savannah NWR *Jasper* SC 15 Jan (Andrew Lydeard). One heard and then seen at a suburban retention pond near Rock Hill *York* SC 1 Jan (Greg Hays) was very unusual for a site away from our southern coast in winter.

Nashville Warbler: Three were reported this winter—one seen and photographed at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 12 Dec (Matthew Murphy) and again 29 Dec (Vicky Burke, Jay Wherley), one seen in *Georgetown* SC during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (*fide* Chris Hill), and one seen and photographed by many at Apex Community Park *Wake* NC 7 Jan through 19 Mar (Kevin Markham, m. obs.).

Nashville Warbler, 18 Jan 2023, Apex Community Park, Wake County NC. Photograph by Kent Fiala.

Cape May Warbler: Individuals were photographed visiting feeders in North Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 13-17 Dec (Deb Winter), in northern *Durham* NC 17-20 Feb (Janice Elrod), and in Greensboro *Guilford* NC 25 Feb (Robin Toler).

Northern Parula: Individuals lingered into early winter at Francis Beidler Forest Audubon Center *Dorchester* SC 6 Dec and 4 Jan (Matt Johnson), at Buxton Woods *Dare* NC 10 Dec (Daniel Irons) and 1 Jan (Stephanie Krueger, Andrew Thornton), and on Eagle Island *New Hanover* NC during the Wilmington CBC 31 Dec (Katherine Higgins, et al.). Returning migrants began showing up at a few sites in southernmost SC beginning 23 Feb.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Individuals photographed at suet feeders in Pendleton *Anderson* SC 21 Dec (Penny & Thomas Alley), in eastern *Dorchester* SC 14 Jan (Lorraine Vargas), and in Simpsonville *Greenville* SC 17-19 Feb (Amanda Hickey) were notable for winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (western race): An "Audubon's Warbler" was seen and photographed on the campus of UNC-Asheville *Buncombe* NC 27 Jan through 18 Feb (Till Dohse, m. obs.), providing the first record of this sub-species in the mountain region.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Individuals that successfully over-wintered in yards with feeders in Gantt *Greenville* SC (Valerie McGuffey) and in northern *Mecklenburg* NC for a second year in a row (Marcia Wright) were notable for the Piedmont region. Returning spring migrants began showing up at some sites in SC in mid-February.

Townsend's Warbler: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Townend's Warbler in a yard in Colington Harbour *Dare* NC 22 Jan (David True, Teri Zambon True). If accepted, the report would provide NC its first winter record of this warbler.

Wilson's Warbler: Individuals seen and photographed at Greenfield Lake *New Hanover* NC 14 Dec intermittently through 18 Feb (Patricia Rettig, m. obs.) and at Exchange Plantation *Georgetown* SC during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (James Eaddy, et al.) were great finds for winter.

Summer Tanager: Two, a male and a female, visited a yard with feeders in West Columbia *Lexington* SC for a third winter in a row, this year 20 Dec intermittently through 9 Jan (Allison Smith, m. obs.). An adult male visited a suet feeder in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 31 Dec through 15 Jan (Volkmar Burke Siegemund).

Western Tanager: Individuals visited feeders in *Aiken* SC 5 Dec (*fide* Andrew Lydeard), in northeastern *Wake* NC 20-28 Dec (B. Fleming Allen), in Holly Springs *Wake* NC 23 Dec intermittently through 7 Feb (Chrissy Deal), in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 30 Dec through 1 Jan (Jill & Ted Falasco, m. obs.), in Rocky Mount *Nash* NC 7 Jan (Ricky Davis), in Charlotte *Mecklenburg* NC 10 Jan (Patty Masten, m. obs.), in Elizabeth City *Pasquotank* NC 15 Jan through 10 Feb (Kay Sumerlin), and in Columbia *Richland* SC

intermittently through the winter (Betsy Newman). Counts of two, one female and one male, were made in yards with feeders in Charleston *Charleston* SC 19 Dec (Truman Smith) and in Aiken *Aiken* SC 24 Jan (Mary Jo Dawson, Julie Mobley).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A female lingering in a yard with feeders in eastern *Brunswick* NC 5-12 Dec (Greg Massey) was quite late. A female photographed at a feeder just north of Millers Creek *Wilkes* NC 23 Dec (Nicole Henry) was extremely late, especially for a site in the foothills.

Blue Grosbeak: An adult male photographed visiting a feeder in Wake Forest *Wake* NC 10 Jan, 2 Feb, and 8 Feb (Stuart Reeves) was very unusual for mid-winter.

Indigo Bunting: A male photographed at a millet feeder on Seabrook Island *Charleston* SC 19-23 Feb (Judy Morr) either over-wintered in the area or was incredibly early.

Painted Bunting: 13 in *Charleston* SC during the Sea Islands CBC 3 Jan (*fide* Aaron Given) was a notable count for winter. Farthest inland this winter was an adult male visiting a feeder in Wake Forest *Wake* NC in mid-January (*fide* Mike Lowe). Farthest north along the coast was an adult male visiting a yard in Kitty Hawk *Dare* NC 19-23 Jan (Linda Courson, m. obs.).

Dickcissel: Individuals were photographed at Samworth WMA *Georgetown* SC during the Litchfield-Pawleys Island CBC 30 Dec (Andy Harrison, David McLean) and visiting a millet feeder in Pinckney Retreat *Beaufort* SC 10 Feb through 30 Mar (G. Dwight Mueller).

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:
https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/

The Chat

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Fifty Years Ago in The Chat

Steve Shultz

The year was 1973. Richard M. Nixon began his second term as President; Foreman beat Frazier; *The Godfather* reigned at the Oscars; the world's first handheld mobile phone call was made in New York City; an oil embargo created long lines at the gas station (and harkened the end of the "Muscle Car Era"); and a dozen eggs cost 78 cents.

In birding news, the March 1973 issue of *The Chat* featured a photograph of an immature Bonaparte's Gull on the cover and contained articles on dowitcher identification, overly ambitious Rufous-sided Towhees, notes on North Carolina's second record of Bridled Tern, and more.

Harry E. Legrand Jr. wrote on the status and identification of Long-billed Dowitcher in North Carolina. LeGrand notes that records of this species were scarce for the state and suggested that the bird was likely more common than reported due to the difficulty in separating the species from Short-billed Dowitcher. Long-billed Dowitcher is now recorded as a regular wintering species at Pea Island NWR and other favored sites and may be found along the coast and in the Piedmont as an uncommon to rare passage migrant.

Edmund K. LeGrand and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. wrote of "a small population of Traill's Flycatchers near Lake Raleigh in Wake County, NC" initially discovered in 1971. While no evidence of nesting was found that year, the LeGrand's discovered two nests the following summer. This was noted as the second record of breeding Traill's Flycatcher in the state, the other being at North Wilkesboro. This species has subsequently been split into Willow and Alder Flycatchers, with the Wake County report pertaining to Willow Flycatcher. Willow Flycatcher is now an uncommon to fairly common breeder in appropriate habitat in the western part of the state.

In other hatching news, Eloise F. Potter located a Rufous-sided Towhee nest containing "three unusually large eggs" and noted that the largest "was somewhat constricted in the middle much like a peanut shell with two seeds". The largest egg was 35 x 16 mm. Potter reports that the average egg size for this species is 23 x 17 mm. Unfortunately for the towhees, "tiny red ants" ended the nesting attempt.

And finally, Gilbert S. Grant reports on finding North Carolina's second record of Bridled Tern on January 8, 1972. The bird was "badly decomposed" and found on the shoulder of NC State Highway 12 just south of Nags Head. Grant notes that the state's first record was from the same area on December 3, 1971, and that it is possible both records stemmed from the passage of Hurricane Ginger (which was the second longest lasting Atlantic hurricane on record, spending 27.25 days as a named tropical system). Bridled Tern is now regularly seen on late summer pelagic trips visiting Gulf Stream waters.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes to the extent allowable. Pay dues or make donations at https://carolinabirdclub.org/dues. Make change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to the Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at https://carolinabirdclub.org/about.html.

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Cover: Red-footed Booby, 03 March 2023, Yates Mill County Park, Wake County NC. Photograph by Robert Oberfelder.

Birder's Book Review:
A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds
by Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal

Steve Shultz

Three billion birds. Groundbreaking work by Canadian Wildlife Service bird population specialist Adam Smith strongly suggests that North America lost this staggering number of birds over the last fifty years. To put that into perspective, the total population of North American birds, swelled by newly fledged young, is estimated to peak in late summer at between 30 and 40 billion. This is reduced by mortality over the winter to a former baseline spring estimate of 10 billion birds. Which is now just seven billion. The ability to quantitatively value the loss of birds across the North American landscape offers more than a tragic footnote in peer reviewed literature, rather it empowers myriad conservationists with a tool to grab the attention of an often distracted public and focus on local, state, national, and international efforts to reverse the tide of declining bird populations.

Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal, who reside in Raleigh, NC, jumped headfirst into birding as "an antidote to city life" after careers in journalism that took them from Miami to Minneapolis and Washington, DC to Raleigh. Provided with a Covid-era opportunity to explore the United States via truck and Airstream trailer, they set out to discover the state of birds in America. The result of this journey, which visits central Florida prairies to witness efforts to keep the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow from tipping into extinction, searches for the "Oh God Bird" in the swamps of Louisiana, and visits farmers in Wyoming who are banding together locally to preserve habitat for Greater Sage Grouse, provides insight into the challenges and successes of stabilizing the recent freefall of bird populations.

Along the way we meet strange bedfellows. U.S. Army generals willing to prioritize woodpecker nesting against live fire exercises join with Hawaiian law students grubbing plants on the side of a volcano and a farmer in Ecuador, who converted from subsistence farming to become protector of one of the rarest birds in the world, in saving endangered species.

But how can we avoid species becoming endangered in the first place? The Gyllenhaals argue the economics of saving birds before that critical tipping point and demonstrate how much more successful and less expensive efforts to avoid getting to the precipice can be versus trying to bring a critically imperiled species from the brink of extinction.

I know, works delving deep into the state of nature as it exists today can sometimes be a bit dry and even depressing. Lots of numbers, lots of references, lots of bad news. *A Wing and a Prayer* successfully avoids the stereotype. Fast paced, with bits of travelogue interspersed with science, charming looks at birds, and interviews with leading figures in conservation, the book makes for an enjoyable read. Anders and Beverly allow us to experience again the excitement of being a fledgling birder, of travelling to see new species, and of joining a worldwide community of individuals enjoying all facets of birding. It is here that we see the importance of welcoming new birders, and especially young birders, who will be the next generation of voices promoting conservation.

The Gyllenhaals share experiences on their journey to learn more about the birds around them. On the outskirts of Washington, DC during fall migration, inclusive birders enjoying a rare Dickcissel sighting ensure that the newcomers not only appreciate the opportunity to tick off this grassland species in decidedly uncommon habitat, but forge lasting friendships. Unfortunately not all of the experiences are positive, as in trying to participate in a North Carolina app-based bird alert when "a nasty message from the group's moderator" resulted in the understanding that "there do exist birders for whom two questions are one too many."

A Wing and a Prayer weaves science and storytelling into a compelling and enjoyable read that not only explains the problem, but offers solutions. The final chapter provides 30 suggestions to save our vanishing birds, as well as links and contact information for organizations spanning Ducks Unlimited to eBird to your representative in Washington, DC.

In addition to compelling content, the quality of the printed product impresses. Thick, luscious pages make for a wonderful tactile experience, while the print size, font, and use of color make for an easy read. Notes are contained in an appendix that allows for the flow of reading to be uninterrupted, and photographs throughout the book add interest and create connections with birds and people highlighted throughout the work. *A Wing and a Prayer* earns a spot on the bookshelf as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.

A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds. Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal. 2023. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY. 310pp. ISBN 978-1-9821-8455-1. Hardcover, $30.00.

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:
https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2023, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1–February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1–May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1–July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1–November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location) and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

All place names preceding NC/SC, also in italics, are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: The individual continuing from fall at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC was last seen 16 Apr (Lee Allen, m. obs.). Ten at a small pond near West Columbia *Lexington* SC 27 Mar (Jason Giovannone, et al.) was a notable count for that area.

Snow Goose: A first-year dark-morph bird on Lake Tomahawk *Buncombe* NC 10-11 May (Jay Wherley, m. obs.) and a first-year white-morph bird in Mills River *Henderson* NC through 13 May (David Wright) were both quite late for sites in the mountain region.

Ross's Goose: One seen and photographed at the Mills River WTP *Henderson* NC 18 Apr (Cathy Ford, m. obs.) was somewhat late.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Individuals seen and photographed at Lake Townsend *Guilford* NC 6-13 Apr (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.), on Beaver Lake *Buncombe* NC 23 Apr (Jay Wherley), and on Cherokee Lake *Cherokee* NC 2 May (Mary & Ralph Erickson) were late. It is possible that all or some of these sightings involved the same individual.

Tundra Swan: A seemingly healthy first-summer individual photographed in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR *Hyde/Washington* NC 21 May (Barbara Houston, Judy Jones) was late.

Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler: An apparent hybrid of a Blue-winged Teal and a Northern Shoveler was photographed on Price Lake *Watauga* NC 2 Apr (Steve Dowlan). This unique-looking duck, an adult drake, was found among a raft of 14 Blue-winged Teal.

Apparent Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler hybrid, 2 April 2023, Watauga County, NC. Photograph by Steve Dowlan.

Eurasian Wigeon: A drake seen on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 15 May (Max Epstein, Doug Gochfeld) was incredibly late.

American Wigeon: A drake lingering at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC through 23 May (Steve Patterson) was rather late for a site so far from the coast.

Mottled Duck: One or two reported at sites around Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC intermittently throughout the period (m. obs.) were unusual for NC.

Ring-necked Duck: Nine in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Colleton* SC 23 May (Elizabeth Anderegg, Julie Mobley) was a remarkable count for late May.

King Eider: A first-winter drake seen and photographed on the Bogue Sound alongside the boardwalk at Emerald Isle Woods Park *Carteret* NC 23-26 May (James Allen, m. obs.) was an extraordinary find for late May, especially when not following an eider irruption in winter.

Surf Scoter: Four on Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 14 Apr (Vince Kloster) and two on Lake Greenwood *Greenwood* SC 28 Apr (Adoniram Sides, Kara Zanni) were notable inland.

White-winged Scoter: Two on a small pond in Black Mountain *Buncombe* NC 18 Mar (Richard Bruce) were notable inland.

Bufflehead: A hen on Pinehurst Lake *Moore* NC 29 May (Kevin Markham) was late.

Common Merganser: Breeding was confirmed for the first time in *Transylvania* NC when a hen and 11 chicks were seen together along the French Broad River near Rosman 14 May (Kevin Burke). Breeding was confirmed again this year along four rivers in the NC mountains—on the Green River/Lake Adger *Polk* when two adults and eight recently fledged chicks were photographed 16 Apr (Keith Viglietta), on the South Toe River in *Yancey* when a hen and six recently fledged chicks were photographed 17 May (Debbie Segal, et al.), on the Laurel River in *Madison* when a hen and 11 juveniles were photographed 21 May (Kevin Metcalf), and on the Tuckasegee River in *Jackson* when a hen and 18 juveniles, an amazing brood size, were photographed 22 May (Jennifer Robin). Notable for SC and pending review by its BRC is the report of a hen and nine chicks along the Chattooga River in *Oconee* SC 29 May (Gavin Allvine). While the report confirms breeding in that area, it may be insufficient for the first breeding record inside SC, as the river itself forms the border between Georgia and SC and the exact nesting site is unknown.

Eared Grebe: Individuals were seen on Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 18 Mar (Harry LeGrand) and off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 26 Mar (Andrew Thornton).

White-winged Dove: One seen perched on a powerline in Kill Devil Hills *Dare* NC 19 Apr (Jeff Lewis) was the only one reported this period.

Chuck-will's-widow: One heard in Pritchardville *Beaufort* SC 7 Mar (Aaron Palmieri) was rather early. Two heard along Mt Zion Rd in eastern *Watauga* NC 9 May (Steve Dowlan) were unusual for the northern mountains.

Rufous Hummingbird: Migrants visited feeders at four sites in the NC Piedmont in mid-to-late March (m. obs.). An adult female visiting a feeder in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 10-22 Mar (Sam Cooper) was unusual for a site near the coast.

Virginia Rail: Two heard calling in a cattail marsh southwest of Boone *Watauga* NC, at 3600 feet above sea level, 19 May into summer (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.) was suggestive of attempted breeding there.

Sora: One audio-recorded calling at pond on Shortoff Mountain *Burke* NC 4 Mar (Benjamin Zeiger) was unusual for the mountain region so early in the season.

Common Gallinule: An adult individual photographed at Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC 4 Apr (Don Lenahan) was unusual for upstate SC.

Purple Gallinule: An adult seen and photographed at the Oriental WTP *Pamlico* NC 17 Apr (Christine Stoughton-Root, et al.) was notable for NC, as was a moribund individual found along NC-58 in Pine Knoll Shores *Carteret* NC 4 May (John Fussell).

Limpkin: A pair apparently nested at the upper end of Lake Marion in southern *Sumter* SC, as one was seen sitting on a nest there 16 Mar and 6 Apr (Cathy Mathias). Though it is unclear if nesting there was successful, four were seen together on the same lake in neighboring Calhoun SC 27 Apr (Mathias). Limpkins also continued around the two previously documented breeding sites in SC intermittently through the period, though no evidence of nesting was reported.

Sandhill Crane: One was seen at the site in *Brunswick* NC where nesting was reported last spring, this year 1-6 May (Robert Cowan, m. obs.). One, possibly injured, seen in an agricultural field in northern *Iredell* NC 30 May through 4 Jun (Dale Reynolds, m. obs.) was unusual for the upper Piedmont so late in the spring season.

Black-necked Stilt: Two at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 10 Mar (Mike & Peggy Eubank, m. obs.) may have been the same pair seen at that site in late December, as it was still very early for returning spring migrants.

Black-bellied Plover: Individuals along Hooper Ln in *Henderson* NC 10 May (Kevin Burke, et al.), at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 26 May (Aaron Jones), and in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 27-28 May (Elizabeth & Henry Link, m. obs.) were notable inland in spring.

American Golden-Plover: Two at J. Morgan Futch Game Land *Tyrrell* NC 5 Mar (Ricky Davis) were rather early. More typical were individuals along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 23-26 Mar (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.), at Santee Coastal Reserve *Charleston* SC 4 Apr (Felicia Sanders, et al.), again along Hooper Ln 28-30 Apr (Tim Novak, m. obs.) and 10 May (Novak), and at the Cape Point Campground *Dare* NC 20-27 May (Ed Corey, m. obs.).

Piping Plover: One seen and photographed at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 28 Apr (Mike Resch, m. obs.) was a fantastic find, providing about the fifth record for the mountain region and fourth record for that particular site.

Upland Sandpiper: Individuals were seen at the Super Sod farm in *Orangeburg* SC 28 Mar through 2 Apr (Harold Donnelly, m. obs.), at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln in *Henderson* NC 28 Apr (Kevin Burke) 1 May (Mark Thomas) and 8-9 May (Eric Smith, m. obs.), at the Cape Point Campground *Dare* NC 2 May (Manon Guglia), at Huspa Plantation *Beaufort* SC 7 May (Travis Stewart), and at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 8 May (Steve Patterson).

Bar-tailed Godwit: The individual wintering on the eastern end of Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC for a second year in a row was last seen 16 May this year (Benjamin Clock).

Stilt Sandpiper: Individuals seen and photographed at small ponds in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 17-24 Apr (Chris Huffstickler, m. obs.) and at Lamaster Dairy Center *Pickens* SC 22-23 May (Kevin Kubach, m. obs.) were notable for inland sites in spring.

Dunlin: Inland sightings included eight along Hooper Ln in *Henderson* NC 29 Apr (Vicky Burke, et al.), 12 at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 28 Apr (Brian Barchus, et al.), and four along Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC 14-16 May (Mary & Ralph Erickson, m. obs.).

Purple Sandpiper: One photographed on the jetty at Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 24 May (Daniel Kaplan) and 25 May (Marty Wall) was very late to depart.

Baird's Sandpiper: One seen and photographed in a flooded agricultural area along Mission Church Rd in western *Stanly* NC 8 May (Greg Hays, m. obs.) was an excellent find in spring.

Western Sandpiper: One seen and photographed along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 26 Mar (Jay Lanier, Ian & Janelle McDonald) was quite early for a site in the mountain region.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Inland, individuals were seen along Hooper Ln *Henderson* NC 27 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, m. obs.), at Pee Dee NWR *Anson* NC 6 May (David Schroder), and at Brookshire Park *Watauga* NC 17 May (Don Woodruff, m. obs.).

Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: Five at Lake Crabtree *Wake* NC 14 May (Eddie Owens) were notable, as all other inland dowitcher sightings this spring were of individuals.

Spotted Sandpiper: 37 at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 9 May (Andrew Thornton) was a notable concentration.

Willet: One photographed at a retention pond in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 24 Apr (Cody Little, m. obs.) was a good find inland.

Wilson's Phalarope: One at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 6-7 May (Charlie Quattlebaum, m. obs.) was unusual for the Piedmont region in spring. Other sightings, all made in the SC Lowcountry, included three at Nemours Wildlife Federation *Beaufort* 20 Mar (Beau Bauer, Steven Guy) with two remaining 22 Mar (Bauer, et al.), one at Donnelley WMA *Colleton* 2-6 May (Michael Redmond, m. obs.), four at Bear Island WMA *Colleton* 7-8 May (m. obs.), and one at Widgeon Point Preserve *Beaufort* 16 May (Jenn Clementoni).

Red-necked Phalarope: Individuals at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC 18 May (Steve Patterson, m. obs.) and near Elloree *Orangeburg* SC 20 May (Matt Johnson), as well as five along Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC 19 May (Carol Tuskey, m. obs.), were notable inland. Along or near the coast, sightings were made at about a dozen sites in mid-to-late May, likely related to a low-pressure system stalled off the coast, including a count of seven on Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 28 May (Wendy Allen, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope, 28 May 2023, Carolina Beach, New Hanover County NC. Photograph by Liling Warren.

South Polar Skua: One photographed in flight over the ocean from Cape Point *Dare* NC 25 May (Josh Yoder, et al.) was an amazing find from shore. Individuals were also seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 14 May and 1 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Pomarine Jaeger: Seven seen in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.) was a notable count from shore.
Parasitic Jaeger: 23 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.) was this spring's high count.

Black-legged Kittiwake: A first-year individual at Atlantic Beach Pier *Carteret* NC 31 Mar (Betsy Miner, John Fussell) through 5 Apr (Marty Wall), at Jolly Roger Pier *Pender* NC 12 May (Michele Skolmutch), and again at Atlantic Beach Pier 22-23 May (Wall) was late to depart.

Black-headed Gull: Individuals were seen at the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 20 Mar (Megan Baker) and at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC 21 Mar (Trenton Voytko).

Little Gull: One was seen in Atlantic Beach *Carteret* NC 4 Mar (Marty Wall) through 19 Mar (John Fussell).

Laughing Gull: One seen at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 1 Mar (Kevin Burke) was extremely early for a site in the mountain region. Two on Lake Norman *Mecklenburg* NC 7 May (Patty Masten, et al.) and one at Yadkin Memorial Park *Yadkin* NC 30 May (Ron Morris) were also unusual inland.

Heermann's Gull: An adult, presumably the same individual seen at multiple sites along the coast the past couple of years, was seen at Hatteras Point *Dare* NC 9 May (Brian Patteson), at nearby Cape Point later that same day (Christopher Gontarski), and on the beach near Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 12 May (Tammy Hester, m. obs.) intermittently through 22 May (Mark Hoffman).

Iceland Gull: Individuals seen around Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 4-16 May (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.) and Cape Point *Dare* NC 12-25 May (Max Epstein, Doug Gochfeld, m. obs.) were late.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Several notable inland counts were made at Jordan Lake *Chatham* NC in March including 177 on 9 Mar (Trenton Voytko), 645 on 18 Mar (Jonathan Cantrell), and 400 on 23 Mar (Mel Green).

Caspian Tern: One seen over Lake Junaluska *Haywood* NC 2 Apr (Vince Kloster) was somewhat early for a site in the mountain region.

Black Tern: 80 tallied on a pelagic trip off Hatteras *Dare* NC, following a period of westerly winds, 5 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was a notable count for spring.

Roseate Tern: Up to two were seen around Cape Point *Dare* NC 5 May into June (m. obs.). Two at Bogue Inlet *Carteret* NC 26 May (Trevor Sleight), and three in Atlantic Beach near Beaufort Inlet *Carteret* NC 28 May (Marty Wall) were unusual for that area of the coast.

Sandwich Tern: Seven photographed together at Cape Fear Point on Bald Head Island *Brunswick* NC 17 Mar (Daniel Kaplan) were somewhat early.

White-tailed Tropicbird: An adult individual seen and photographed from Cape Point *Dare* NC 20 May (Jason Denesevich, Jack Rogers, m. obs.) was an amazing find from shore. On pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC, individuals were seen 14 May and 3 Jun, and a pair of adult birds were seen together 29 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

White-tailed Tropicbird, 29 May 2023, off Hatteras, Dare County NC. Photograph by Kate Sutherland.

Red-billed Tropicbird: An immature individual was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 2 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-throated Loon: One seen and photographed on Lake Hickory *Alexander/Catawba* NC 17-21 Mar (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.) was a great find inland.

Pacific Loon: One seen and photographed on Lake Jocassee at Devils Fork SP *Oconee* SC 4 Mar (Natasha Bartolotta, Jay Mager, m. obs.) through 2 Apr (Tim Kalbach) was a great find for inland-most SC and the second record for that lake, the first 28 Feb through 8 Mar 2020. Along the coast, up to two continued around Wrightsville Beach *New Hanover* NC through 31 Mar (Sam Cooper) and one was seen off Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC on the somewhat late date of 17 Apr (Andrew Thornton).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: A low-pressure system stalled off the coast in late May contributed to multiple from-shore sightings including counts of 42 off Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.) and 40 off Atlantic Beach Pier *Carteret* NC 28 May (Zach Ambrose, Marty Wall).

European Storm-Petrel: One was briefly seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 2 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Leach's Storm-Petrel: 121 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.) was a remarkable count from shore. Three off Atlantic Beach Pier *Carteret* NC 28 Apr (Marty Wall) were notable for that area. Both sightings occurred following the passage of offshore weather.

Trindade Petrel: Individuals, all dark-morphs, were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 22 May, 29 May, and 1 Jun (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Bermuda Petrel: One was seen near the shelf break 30 miles southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC during a research trip 24 Apr (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland).

Fea's Petrel: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 23 May and 29 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Cory's Shearwater: A few sightings were made from shore when a low-pressure system stalled off the Outer Banks in late May, including a count of 82 from Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.).

Sooty Shearwater: The peak count this spring was 136 in flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 28 May (Peter Flood, et al.).

Magnificent Frigatebird: An immature bird photographed in flight over Fripp Island *Beaufort* SC 30 May (Jenn Clementoni) was our first report this year.

Masked Booby: An adult was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras *Dare* NC 22 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.).

Red-footed Booby: Pending review by the NC BRC is the extraordinary report with photographs of an apparent dark-morph Red-footed Booby at Yates Mill Pond *Wake* NC 3 Mar (Bob Oberfelder, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide NC its second record of this tropical sulid. Amazingly, because Yates Mill Pond is 110 miles from the coast, this report may also provide the inland-most record of this typically-oceanic species anywhere in the world.

Red-footed Booby, 3 March 2023, Wake County, NC. Photograph by Bob Oberfelder.

Anhinga: Farthest inland this spring were four in Mosquito Den Swamp *Lincoln* NC 18 May (Will Bennett, et al.) and one in Cleveland Pike Marsh *Oconee* SC 21 May (James Sullivan).

American White Pelican: Five photographed on Mayo Lake *Person* NC 11 Mar (Jeff Blalock) were a first for that county. 194 at the upper end of Lake Greenwood in *Laurens* SC 16-17 Mar (Tamara King) was a remarkable count for that area.

American Bittern: One photographed at a small pond near the upper end of Fontana Lake *Swain* NC 29 Mar (Paula Caycedo Rosales) was a first for that county.

Snowy Egret: One in the Patterson Place wetland *Durham* NC 27 Mar (Maria de Bruyn) was somewhat early for a site so far inland. One at the Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 21 Apr (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region in spring.

Tricolored Heron: An adult seen and photographed at Land Harbor Lake *Avery* NC 5 Apr (John Frazier, m. obs.) was an excellent find, providing the first record for that county and only the fifth record for the entire mountain region. One at Sandy Creek Park *Durham* NC 13 Apr (Vicki Nebes, m. obs.) was unusual for the Piedmont region in spring.

Glossy Ibis: One seen and photographed at ponds along Sally Gilreath Rd in *Greenville* SC 31 Mar through 11 Apr (Laura Harris, m. obs.) was notable for upstate SC in spring.

Roseate Spoonbill: Second-year individuals photographed along US-70 just north of Davis *Carteret* NC 10 May (Ruth King, *fide* John Fussell) and in the Brown Marsh Swamp near Clarkton *Bladen* NC 17 May (Amy Padgett) were notable for NC.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Both states' first reports this spring were made on the same date, 7 Mar. Individuals over Lake Cunningham *Greenville* SC 10 Apr (Laura Harris), over Old Bynum Bridge *Chatham* NC 3 May (Laurie Howlett, et al.), and over northern *Orange* NC 18 May (Angie Holt, et al.) were unusual for the Piedmont in spring.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: One at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanover* NC 13 May (*fide* Jesse Anderson) was a first for that island, likely a result of a controlled-burn management program.

Crested Caracara: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Crested Caracara along NC-20 in northern *Robeson* NC, where reportedly scavenging a deer carcass, 3 Mar (Jeff Marcus). If accepted, the report would provide the third record for NC and first for the inner coastal plain.

Western Kingbird: Individuals were seen at four sites along or near the coast in March—at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC continuing from winter through 20 Mar (Frank Ceravalo), around a horse pasture on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 17-21 Mar (Robert Steele, m. obs.), at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 23 Mar (Shane Guenin), and at Holly Ridge Golf Course *Currituck* NC 26 Mar (Al Hooks, Jeff Lewis).

Gray Kingbird: One was seen and photographed at Isle of Palms County Park *Charleston* SC 24-25 May (Jake Shorty, m. obs.).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One returned to last year's successful nesting site in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 20 Apr (Cody Little, et al.) though only continued through 29 Apr (m. obs.), likely departing due to lack of a mate. One returned to a suspected nesting site along Williamson Rd in *York* SC 23 Apr (Marcus & Cheryl Morris) and two were seen there 20-30 May (Morris). A pair returned to the traditional nesting site near the Rock Hill - York County Airport *York* SC 24 Apr (Cindy Stacy) and nest-building was observed there in May (m. obs.). One was briefly seen at the historic nesting site, active 2010-2017, along Gutner Rd in southern *Greenville* SC 29 Apr (Simon Harvey, Samuel Payne) but not thereafter.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individual migrants were seen in western *Yancey* NC 12 May (Doug Raybuck) and in *Catawba* NC 17 May (Andrew Rapp).

Alder Flycatcher: Individual migrants along the Thomas Trail in Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 15-17 May (John Haire, m. obs.) and at Unity Park *Greenville* SC 20 May (Tim Kalbach) were notable for the Piedmont.

Willow Flycatcher: One audio-recorded singing at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 30 May (Marty Wall) was unusual for a site in the coastal plain.

Least Flycatcher: A noticeable passage of migrants through the western NC Piedmont occurred 6-10 May, with individuals reported at six sites (m. obs.).

Say's Phoebe: One was seen and photographed in an agricultural area of western *Abbeville* SC 20-25 Mar (Steve Patterson, m. obs.). The individual continuing from fall along Howerton Rd in *Guilford* NC was last seen 6 Apr (Lou Skrabec, et al.).

Bank Swallow: One photographed at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 25 Mar (Nick Accardo, Michael Plauché) was rather early for a site in the mountain region.

Cave Swallow: Two seen in flight over the marina at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanov*er NC 21 Mar (Jesse Anderson) were extremely unusual in spring.

Sedge Wren: A count of two in an agricultural area just east of Brevard *Transylvania* NC 26-29 Apr (Nathaniel Axtell) was notable for the mountain region.

Evening Grosbeak: Six continued in a yard with feeders in southwestern *Orange* NC, where up to 20 visited in January, through 26 Apr (Madalyn Baldwin, Ethan Johnston).

Bachman's Sparrow: A singing male at Carolina Beach SP *New Hanover* NC 2-5 May (Jesse Anderson, m. obs.) was a first for that island, likely a result of a controlled-burn management program initiated at that park.

Lark Sparrow: A pair returned to the site where suspected of nesting last season along Champion Rd in southern *York* SC 23 Apr (Marcus & Cheryl Morris, m. obs.) though this year only continued through 29 Apr (Morris, m. obs.). One seen and photographed at the Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 1 Apr (Jay Wherley, m. obs.) was a great find for the mountain region in spring. Interestingly, this individual was seen at the exact same location inside the estate where a Lark Sparrow was found 23 Aug 2022 (Aaron Steed, m. obs.).

White-crowned Sparrow: Latest to depart this spring was one photographed underneath a feeder in Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 20 May (Paul Nielson).

Vesper Sparrow: One seen and photographed at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 12 May (Gerald Head, Peggy Eubank, m. obs.) was quite late for a site away from the species' breeding grounds.

Henslow's Sparrow: 92 singing males over a 7.5-mile tract at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC 5 Apr (Abbie Valine) was a notable count.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One seen and photographed by many at Mason Farm Biological Reserve *Orange* NC 11 Mar (Ralph Perrine) and 13-23 Mar (Fleeta Chauvigne, m. obs.) was somewhat early for a site in the Piedmont. One photographed on Hilton Head Island *Beaufort* SC 25 Mar (Alan Biggs) was a first for that island. Individuals were also reported at about a dozen other sites this spring 28 Mar through 8 May (m. obs.).

Lincoln's Sparrow, 14 March 2023, Orange County, NC.
Photograph by Kent Fiala.

Bobolink: Triple-digit counts made along Mid-Pines Rd and adjacent Inwood Rd in *Wake* NC 27 Apr (Liling Warren) through 14 May (Eddie Owens), including a high count of 535 on 5 May (John Lynch), were notable for that area.

Bullock's Oriole: Individual adult males visited yards in Mt Pleasant *Charleston* SC 12 Mar through 4 Apr (*fide* Craig Watson) and in Manteo *Dare* NC from mid-March (Paul Creef) through 4 Apr (Pat Draisey, Jeff Lewis, et al.).

Rusty Blackbird: One photographed in western *Wake* NC 10 May (Sujata Roy) was rather late.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Individuals at Apex Community Park *Wake* NC 4 Mar (James Pretzsch) and at Silver Bluff Audubon Center *Aiken* SC 4 Mar (Andrew Lydeard) were early.

Northern Waterthrush: One photographed at Caw Caw Interpretive Center *Charleston* SC 15 Mar (Katrina Cheung) likely over-wintered in the area, as it was too early for a spring migrant.

Golden-winged Warbler: One seen and audio-recorded singing in northern *Wake* NC 29 May through 1 Jun (Reed Dunnagan) was quite late for a site outside the species' breeding range.

Black-and-white Warbler: One seen at New River SP *Ashe* NC 1 Mar (Tamara & Tom Sanders) was very early for a site in the mountain region.

Prothonotary Warbler: Singing males on territory along the French Broad River at Biltmore Estate *Buncombe* NC 18-28 Apr and again 9-16 Jun (Aaron Steed, m. obs.) and 15 miles downriver near Mills River *Henderson* NC 8 May through 2 Jun (Marilyn Westphal, m. obs.) were unusual for the mountain region, though likely did not find mates at those sites. Two to three singing males along the Tugaloo River in southwestern *Oconee* SC 29-30 Apr (Andrew Lydeard, m. obs.) were notable for westernmost SC.

Swainson's Warbler: Singing males acting as if on territory at Great Bend Park along the Haw River in *Alamance* NC 29 Apr through 23 May (Jeffrey Greco, m. obs.) and at Jacob Fork Park in *Catawba* NC 17-30 May (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.) were unusual for those areas.

Connecticut Warbler: Individuals were reported at five sites this spring, all but one in the mountain region, 14-19 May (m. obs.).

Mourning Warbler: A singing adult male seen and photographed at Reynolda Gardens *Forsyth* NC 9-13 May (Tom McNeil, m. obs.) was the only one reported this spring.

Cape May Warbler: An adult male photographed in flight over the Atlantic Ocean 30 miles southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC during a pelagic trip 21 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was quite unusual offshore during spring migration.

Magnolia Warbler: An adult male photographed in flight over the Atlantic Ocean 30 miles southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC during a pelagic trip 14 May (Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, et al.) was unusual offshore during spring migration.

Bay-breasted Warbler: An adult male photographed along the Basin Trail at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 29 May (Dan Enders, et al.) was rather late, also unusual for the coast in spring.

Prairie Warbler: An adult male photographed at Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 14 Mar (Nick Bui) may have over-wintered in the area, as it was several weeks early for a returning spring migrant.

Townsend's Warbler: An adult male photographed in Colington Harbour *Dare* NC 13 Mar (David True) was almost certainly the same individual photographed there nearly two months earlier, 22 Jan (True), signifying that the bird successfully over-wintered in the area.

Wilson's Warbler: One photographed at Greenfield Lake *New Hanover* NC 1 Apr (Jan Hansen) likely was the same individual seen there during the winter through 18 Feb, suggesting that the bird successfully over-wintered at that site.

Western Tanager: Individuals visited feeders in Rocky Mount *Nash* NC from winter through 16 Mar (Ricky Davis), near Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC 18 Mar (Teri Krezdorn, Brooks Garrett, m. obs.), in Wilmington *New Hanover* NC 2-16 Apr (Sam Cooper, m. obs.), and in Columbia *Richland* SC 16 Apr (Clint Wills). One photographed perched in a tree-top along Trenton Rd in Raleigh *Wake* NC 14 Mar (Scott Ellis) was unusual for a site away from a feeder.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An adult male visiting a feeder in Cary *Wake* NC 30 Mar (Doug Pratt) was rather early.

Painted Bunting: Farthest inland this spring was an adult male visiting a feeder just east of Charlotte *Mecklenburg* NC 27 Mar through 4 Apr (Leslie Barden). A singing adult male, presumably the same individual on territory there last summer, returned to Dorothea Dix Park *Wake* NC 25 Apr (Chris Moorman) where it continued into summer (m. obs.).

Dickcissel: As usual, Dickcissels began showing up at known/suspected breeding sites in early May. Up to four in an agricultural area along Reepsville Rd in *Lincoln* NC 17 May through 2 Jun (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.) and up to four near the intersection of Dairyland and Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC 19 May into summer (Karen Hogan, Teresa Noel, m. obs.) were notable counts for those areas.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes to the extent allowable. Pay dues or make donations at https://carolinabirdclub.org/dues. Make change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to the Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at https://carolinabirdclub.org/about.html.

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The Chat

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General Field Notes

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Cover: Virginia Rail, 14 April 2023, Forsyth County NC.
Photograph by Claudia Nielson.

First Confirmed Breeding Record for Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) in Forsyth County, North Carolina

Ann Blue Robertson
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The Muddy Creek Greenway south of Robinhood Road/Jamison Park is an eBird Hotspot in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (Forsyth County). The trail borders Muddy Creek and winds through a mix of woodlands and open areas including open ditches and brushy habitat. It is known for attracting a variety of sparrows including, seasonally, White-crowned, Grasshopper, Vesper, Field, Savannah, and Swamp. Lincoln's Sparrow has been documented as well.

On Thursday evening, April 13, 2023, David and Susan Disher visited in search of interesting sparrows. They were walking along the back fence of the dog park when they were startled to see two adult Virginia Rails. The Dishers' eBird checklist, which includes photographs and audio files, includes the following written description: "small dark reddish-brown rails with gray faces and fairly long bills. Heard and seen. First saw one in grass on east side of the dog lot. Recording and poor photos."

Virginia Rail, 14 April 2023, Forsyth County NC. Photograph by Claudia Nielson.

In the ensuing ten days, about 30 birders posted on eBird that they saw or heard one or two adult Virginia Rails along the marshy ditch near the dog park. Many of the checklists include photos or audio files.

I visited the site on April 18, 2023. I did not see the rails, but I did note the needle rush (*Juncus sp.)* that was growing along the shallow, water-filled ditch where the rails had been seen and heard. Marbry "Hop" Hopkins was also there, and we speculated that this widespread marsh grass was familiar habitat to the rails, making it a good stopover area. No one yet had any idea the rails might be nesting.

On Sunday, April 23, 2023, young birder Jesse Haaf texted a photo of a recently deceased rail chick to me with the following message: "Ann, I believe this is a baby Virginia Rail. I found it at the corner of the dog park."

The next day, Monday, April 24, 2023, Jessica Tate, MD, and I visited Muddy Creek in the early afternoon hoping to collect the chick. Miraculously, it was still there. Jessica scooped up the little rail and examined it for trauma. She concluded that it had most likely encountered a canine, given the proximity to the dog park, although possibly a

human had stepped on it. I contacted Chris Marsh, PhD, who took the body and froze it pending delivery to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, where it is now specimen NCSM 28377.

Virginia Rail, 23 Apr 2023, Forsyth County, NC. Photograph by Jesse Haaf.

The last documented sighting of Virginia Rail during the breeding season was on May 5, 2023, when Jesse Haaf saw one adult Virginia Rail fly up from the ditch.

Curious on the rarity of the breeding record, I consulted the online website *Birds of North Carolina: Their Distribution and Abundance,* which notes that Virginia Rails in the Piedmont are "rare to locally uncommon transients". There was a comment that Virginia Rails "possibly bred near Winston-Salem in 1985." I then emailed Harry LeGrand, the owner of this portion of the NC Biodiversity Project, asking if he had more information on the 1985 occurrence near Winston-Salem. He wrote that "possible breeding" may have been overstated and sent a link to The Chat, Winter 1986, *Briefs for the Files*. For Virginia Rail, it read: "an adult seen at a golf course in Winston-Salem, N.C. on 19 and 21 July by Kim Spear and Richard Page."

Since the 1985 sighting was not conclusive of breeding, I believe that this spring 2023 recovery of a recently fledged chick constitutes the first documented successful breeding record of Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

Virginia Rail breeding range in the Eastern United States is generally along the immediate Atlantic Coast from North Carolina northward, and inland across the Northeast, Midwest and Great Plains, generally north of 38° latitude, with occasional breeding records inland and further south, for example the Burke's Garden area in Tazewell County, Virginia.

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Apparent Tool Use by a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)

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On April 25, 2022, I took a series of sequential photographs of a Black-and-white Warbler (Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Chapel Hill, NC) when it was grooming, foraging, and feeding. During foraging, it clung to two arboreal vines, poking the bark repeatedly with its bill. Several sequential photographs were taken, two of which showed the bird holding a twig positioned lengthwise in its bill.

Bill Newmark Ph.D. (research curator and conservation biologist in the Natural History Museum of Utah) and I authored a manuscript entitled: Apparent Tool Use by a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Peer-reviewed, it was accepted for publication in The Florida Field Naturalist, a quarterly scientific publication by The Florida Ornithological Society.

Tool use by birds from more than 30 families has been documented worldwide. For example, certain nuthatches uncover invertebrates by prying bark scales from tree trunks. Much like a nuthatch, the Black-and-white Warblers easily creep along tree trunks to locate insects. However, like many other wood-warblers it also forages insects from branches and leaves. It is our assumption that the bird used the twig to uncover insects or to force invertebrates out of crevices.

Photographs show the bird feeding on a caterpillar. Because of the large size of the caterpillar, it is likely that the Black-and-white Warbler gleaned the caterpillar from the surface of the bark rather than using the twig to pry the bark up or locate and probe for the caterpillar in a crevice in the bark. Regardless, we believe that these sequential photographs provide highly suggestive evidence for tool use by the Black-and-white Warbler. This indirect evidence for tool use by the Black-and-white Warbler is, as far as we are aware, the first such record for a wood-warbler (Parulidae).

The full article can be viewed at:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369880768_AppArent_tool_Use_by_A_blAck-And-_white_wArbler_Mniotilta_varia#fullTextFileContent

Black-and-white Warbler, 25 April 2022, Orange County, NC. Photograph by Paul Jadot.

2022 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Keith McCullough[1], Chair; Lex Glover, Secretary; Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Simon Harvey, Chris Hill, Matt Johnson, Amy Tegeler, Steve Patterson, Irvin Pitts

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In 2022 the South Carolina Bird Records Committee (SCBRC) acted on 26 reports, of which 19 were accepted, four were not accepted, and three were unresolved (to be re-reviewed in 2023). Two of these reports, one ultimately accepted and the other not accepted, were voted on previously in 2021 and remained unresolved until the committee's first ballot of 2022.

After many years of dedicated service, Giff Beaton rolled off the committee in early 2022 to make way for new members. Linda Montgomery decided not to return to the committee for another year. As a result of these departures, Amy Tegeler and Matt Johnson were welcomed as new members.

The required annual meeting of the SCBRC took place virtually via Zoom on 7 November 2022 and was attended by Keith McCullough, Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Chris Hill, Matt Johnson, Simon Harvey, and Steve Patterson. Not in attendance were Lex Glover, Amy Tegeler, Irvin Pitts, and Will Post. Keith McCullough was re-elected as Chair. Since there were no unresolved reports due for a fourth and final in-person vote, the meeting was spent reviewing forms, processes, and the review status of species on the South Carolina main list. The presence of a review status is determined in part by the number of accepted records processed by the committee. It was determined that no species needed a status change in 2022.

In 2022, only Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) was added to South Carolina's Main List, bringing the total to 449 species. A few of the accepted reports this year passed with an 8-1 result (Accept-Non Accept). SCBRC bylaws state that more than one non-accept vote is needed to produce a result other than Accept. These and the other reports that reached a conclusion are detailed below.

Accepted Reports

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). 2022-007. Accept (8-1). Aaron Given submitted a written report of a Brant from the southwest end of Kiawah Island (Charleston County), seen on 14 March 2022. All but one member felt that the field marks described, along with the experience of the observer, were enough to accept.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). 2022-026. Accept (9-0). Kimberly Nesbitt reported and photographed a Brant from Bulls Island (Charleston County), seen on 23 November 2022. The clear photo left no doubt among committee members.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). 2022-023. Accept (8-1). Samuel Payne submitted a written report of a Common Merganser from Lake Robinson (Greenville County), first seen 27 December 2022. Many of the committee members wished for

images that were larger and sharper than what were available, but only one member thought that Red-breasted Merganser was a possibility.

Red-necked Grebe,
26 Nov 2022, McCormick County, SC.
Photograph by John Patten Moss.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2022-028. Accept (9-0). An excellent photo accompanied a written report by John Patten Moss for a Red-necked Grebe at the J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir (McCormick County), first spotted on 26 November 2022. The written details helped confirm the location of the bird in South Carolina, and the photo confirmed the identification.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 2022-025. Accept (8-1). A Western Grebe from Bulls Island (Charleston County) was described and photographed by various birders beginning on 20 November 2022. One committee member did not feel that Clark's Grebe was adequately ruled out in the descriptions.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 2022-027. Accept (9-0). John Demchak reported a Western Grebe along with four photos from Lake Wylie (York County), seen on 19 December 2022. Other observers located and photographed the bird two days later at the same location. The excellent photographs helped produce a unanimous vote.

Western Grebe, 19 December 2022, York County, SC.
Photograph by John Demchak.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*). 2022-016. Accept (9-0). Mary-Catherine Martin reported and photographed a Snowy Plover at Sand Island of Yawkey Wildlife Center (Georgetown County), seen on 22 February 2022. All members thought that the photos eliminated similar species.

Hudsonian Godwit,
16 April 2022, Charleston County, SC.
Photograph by Keith McCullough.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). 2022-006. Accept (9-0). Keith McCullough submitted one written report and one photo for a Hudsonian Godwit from NE Kiawah Island Beach (Charleston County), seen on 16 April 2022. The photograph showed lifted wings and helped all members vote to accept this report.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). 2022-012. Accept (9-0). Steve Calver submitted one written report with two photos of a Ruff from the CDF Spoil Site (Jasper County), seen 7 September 2020. All committee members voted to accept this report based on the photos provided.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). 2022-014. Accept (9-0). Matt Johnson submitted one written report with three photos of a Ruff from Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown County), seen from 28-30 May 2022. All committee members voted to accept this report based on the photos provided.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) 2022-029. Accept (9-0). John Patten Moss submitted one written report with six photos of a Black-legged Kittiwake from the J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir (McCormick County), seen 25-26 November 2022. This species carries a review status in South Carolina of "inland only". Some members felt that the photos were enough to accept by themselves, others felt that the description of field marks helped in favor of acceptance.

Iceland Gull (Thayer's) (*Larus glaucoides thayeri*). 2022-009. Accept (8-1). Brandon Holden reported an adult Iceland Gull of the Thayer's subspecies from a stationary roosting area watch at The Caribbean Resort and Villas (Horry County), seen 30 December 2021. All but one member felt that the combination of features visible in the photos warranted acceptance of this report.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). 2022-001. Accept (9-0). Chris Hill submitted a written report along with a detailed photo essay of a Slaty-backed Gull from the Horry County Landfill (Horry County), seen 03 January 2022. Shawn Smolen-Morton also

submitted a report for this species, detected at the same location on 04 January 2022. Many other observers reported this species between the 3-8 January 2022. This observation was widely accepted by the birding community in South Carolina and beyond, and thus received a unanimous vote to accept. This is the first documented record of Slaty-backed Gull in South Carolina.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). 2022-015. Accept (8-1). Christine Kozlosky submitted a written report with three photos of a Glaucous Gull from Hilton Head Island (Beaufort County), seen 25 May 2022. Most of the comments given by committee members about this report indicate that similar looking "bleached-white" Herring Gulls were considered as a point of caution. However, only one member felt there was enough uncertainty to give a non-accept vote.

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). 2022-024. Accept (9-0). Scott Hartley reported and provided a photo of a Brown Noddy resting on pavement at Myrtle Beach State Park (Horry County) following the passing of Hurricane Ian. This bird was seen on 30 September 2022.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*). 2022-013. Accept (9-0). Harry Doswell submitted a written report, including a photo by Harry James, of a Crested Caracara near Hunting and Harbor Islands (Beaufort County), seen 19 August 2022. Several observers located the bird between 19-21 August 2022 in an area between these two islands. No members expressed concerns about provenance.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*). 2022-009. Accept (9-0). Steve Patterson submitted a written report and a video to support an Alder Flycatcher in Townville (Anderson County), seen/heard 20 August 2021. This report was unable to reach a conclusion after two previous rounds of voting, each round producing two non-accept votes. The dissenting members were initially concerned with the audio description as well as the approximately 90-minute gap between hearing vocalizations and seeing an Empidonax. However, after the 3rd round of voting, all members agreed to accept this report based on the description of the vocalizations and the observer's experience.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). 2022-003. Accept (9-0). Jack Volker submitted a written report along with a photo of a Snowy Owl from DeBordieu Colony (Georgetown County), seen 17 February 2022.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). 2022-011. Accept (9-0). Steve Calver submitted a written report with three photos of a Shiny Cowbird at the CDF Dredge Material Site (Jasper County), seen 6-7 July 2020.

Non-Accepted Reports

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). 2022-002. Non-Accept (4-5). An early 2022 written report of Common Merganser from Horry County was considered and not accepted by the committee. Most members felt that the description did not provide enough specific information to rule out Red-breasted Merganser.

Iceland Gull (Thayer's) (*Larus glaucoides thayeri*). 2022-008. Non-Accept (4-5). A report of a Thayer's subspecies of Iceland Gull from Horry County that included eight photos was considered by the committee. Some members felt the bird appeared as an Iceland Gull in only some photos, others were not confident with any of the photos, and one stated concern over hybrid possibilities.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) 2021-016. Non-Accept (2-7). A written report of 10 Sooty Terns that included one photo from Abbeville County in 2021 was considered for the 2nd time in 2022. Because there were multiple non-accept votes after the first circulation, but not enough to be a majority, the report was re-circulated. The majority of the committee felt that the observation distance of nearly one mile, along with the poor photo, provided enough concern to warrant a non-accept vote. Some felt that the description did not adequately rule out Bridled Tern or Black Tern.

Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttalli*) 2022-020. Non-Accept. (0-9). A written report of Yellow-billed Magpie from early 2022 in Beaufort County was considered by the committee. All members expressed concern over the minimal details provided and uncertainty within the report on the part of the observer.

Did You Know?

Full copies of *The Chat* dating back to the very first issue, March 1937, are available for viewing online. Find these and more at:
https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat/

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2023, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1–February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1–May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1–July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1–November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location) and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Abbreviations: **BRC** – Bird Records Committee, **et al.** – and others, **Ft** – Fort, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area

All place names preceding NC/SC, also in italics, are counties.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Six in Belhaven *Beaufort* NC 6 Jun (Lisa Peavy) and, likely the same flock of six, in northeastern *Craven* NC 29 Jun (Lester Coble, m. obs.) were notable for that area of NC. Farthest inland were four in northwestern *Richland* SC 2 Jun (Hilda Flamholtz, m. obs.) and two at the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery *Richmond* NC 18 Jul (Rex Badgett).

Mute Swan: Possibly of wild origin were a seemingly-mated pair at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 4 Jun (Jack Jenkins, et al.) through 29 Jun (m. obs.) and a flock of six including two sub-adults in *Carteret* NC, in flight over Beaufort 10 Jun (Matt Spangler) and at Davis Impoundment from late June (*fide* John Fussell) through 18 Jul (Marty Wall).

Blue-winged Teal: A drake at Simpson Research Station *Anderson* SC 16 May (Steve Patterson) intermittently through 12 Jul (Kevin Kubach) and two, a drake and a hen, at a retention pond in Pineville *Mecklenburg* NC 16 May (Greg Hays) through 21 Jul (Dennis Kent) were unusual for the Piedmont region in summer.

American Wigeon: A drake at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al.) was late to depart.

Northern Pintail: Individual drakes at Durant Nature Preserve *Wake* NC through 9 Jun (Sara Marschhauser, m. obs.) and in *Pasquotank* NC 15-20 Jun (Greg Hudson) were quite late.

Green-winged Teal: Two, a drake and a hen, at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al) were late.

Ring-necked Duck: Eight, a mix of drakes and hens, in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC 27 Jun (Ron Ahle) and 1 Jul (Jonathan Manchester) was a remarkable count for mid-summer, though no evidence of nesting was seen. Individual drakes on Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), in *Pasquotank* NC 15-20 Jun (Greg Hudson), and on Pinnacle Lake at Table Rock SP *Pickens* SC through 19 Jul (Scott Stetenga) were also unusual for summer.

Greater Scaup: A hen photographed on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 12 Jun (Melanie Crawford, Ann Stinely) was quite late.

Lesser Scaup: For the fourth summer in a row a Lesser Scaup was reported on the Pamlico River in Washington *Beaufort* NC, this year a drake photographed 26 Jun (Kevin O'Kane). A hen in southwestern *Rockingham* NC 7 Jun (Jesse Haaf, et al.) and a drake at the upper end of Lake Norman in *Catawba* NC 13 Jun (Caroline Martin) were also unusual for summer.

Surf Scoter: Individuals lingered into early summer at Ft Moultrie *Charleston* SC 4-5 Jun (Matt Johnson, et al.), at Morris Island *Charleston* SC 9 Jun (Elizabeth & Jonathan Anderegg), around Federal Point at Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC through 11 Jun (Eric Butler), and at Jennette's Pier *Dare* NC 28 Jun (Andrew Thornton, m. obs.). A drake photographed at Federal Point at Ft Fisher 24 Jul (Zane Fish, Ash Ranson) was very late.

White-winged Scoter: One photographed on the ocean along Morris Island *Charleston* SC 9 Jun (Elizabeth & Jonathan Anderegg) was late.

Black Scoter: Not unusually, a fair number of Black Scoters lingered into early summer at sites along the coast, this year mostly from *Carteret* NC south to *Charleston* SC. Some of the higher counts were 20 off Kiawah Island *Charleston* SC 8 Jun (Alexander Middeleer, et al.), seven off Ft Fisher *New Hanover* NC 10 Jun (Jeremy Braun), and 16 off Garden City Pier *Horry* SC 14 Jun (Michael Robertson). Pairs in flight off Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 24 Jul (Marty Wall) and off Myrtle Beach *Horry* SC 31 Jul (Amanda Brown, et al.) were especially late.

Bufflehead: A drake photographed near Sheldon *Beaufort* SC 16 Jun (Jake Zadik) was very late.

Common Merganser: A family group of one hen and four immature/sub-adult birds seen along the Linville River just above Lake James *Burke* NC 14 Jun (Clayton Gibb) may have nested somewhere in that area. Family groups continued intermittently through summer at four of the five sites in the NC mountains where nesting was confirmed in May (m. obs.).

Red-breasted Merganser: A drake on Lake Keowee *Oconee* SC from May (m. obs.) through 26 Jun (Bryan McDonald) and a hen in northwestern *Person* NC 19 Jun (Al Hooks, Audrey Whitlock) were unusual for sites away from the coast in summer.

Ruddy Duck: Ruddy Ducks lingered into early summer at multiple sites, with counts including 14 at Martin Marietta Park *Craven* NC 9 Jun (Jacob Clark) and ten on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 10 Jun (Karen Lebing). A drake on the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 24 Jul into August (John Kuenzli, m. obs.) either over-summered in the area or arrived very early.

Horned Grebe: One photographed on the Savannah River just below the Lake Hartwell Dam *Anderson* SC 24 Jul (Jason Corder) and, likely the same individual, photographed near the dam on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 2 Aug (Irvin Pitts) was very unusual for summer. These sightings are not without precedent, however, as a Horned Grebe summered on Lake Keowee, also in the SC Piedmont, in 2020 and 2021.

Virginia Rail: The pair heard calling in a cattail marsh southwest of Boone *Watauga* NC, at 3600', in late May and June apparently bred at that site, as a recently-fledged juvenile was seen there 23 Jun (Andrew Rapp).

Purple Gallinule: Somewhat inland of the species' typical breeding range, successful nesting was confirmed in the Cuddo Unit of Santee NWR *Clarendon* SC when three recently-fledged juveniles were seen alongside two adults 22 Jul (Irvin Pitts) and at a pond in central *Allendale* SC when an adult was seen alongside a juvenile 24 Jun (Cherrie Sneed) and 8 Jul (Mary Jo Dawson).

Limpkin: Successful nesting was confirmed again this year at SC's two known nesting sites—in the Island Green community in southern *Horry*, when four juveniles were seen alongside two adults 19 Jun (Rod Gonzalez), and at the upper end of Goose Creek Reservoir *Berkeley*, when two juveniles were seen alongside two adults 1 Jul (Barbara & Don Alexander, Jim Bunn, *fide* Craig Watson). Elsewhere in SC, individuals were photographed at Pinckney Island *Beaufort* 23 Jun (Michael Oliver), at Savannah NWR *Jasper* 4 Jul (Tammy Hester), and on Lake Marion *Clarendon* 25 Jul (Carl Bussells). Post-breeding wanderers photographed at Badin Lake *Stanly* NC 19 Jul (Barbara Tuset) and on the Catawba River in western *Mecklenburg* NC 21 Jul (Dennis Kent, m. obs.) were one-day wonders, notable for NC.

Sandhill Crane: One photographed in an agricultural area of eastern *Wilson* NC 15 Jul (Phil Doerr, Clyde Sorenson, et al.), where reportedly present three weeks, was unusual for July.

American Avocet: A flock of 11 in flight over Salem Lake *Forsyth* NC 11 Jul (John Haire) and one in flight over Falls Lake *Durham* and *Wake* NC 21 Jul (Ed Corey, et al.) were notable inland.

Pacific Golden-Plover: One, presumably the same individual seen there in late July for the past four years, was seen around Cape Point Buxton *Dare* NC 16-31 Jul (Megan Baker, Daniel Irons, m. obs.). Unlike previous years, the majority of sightings this year were made in the campground, likely because of a lack of suitable grass-flats around the Salt Pond.

Pacific Golden-Plover, 18 July 2023, Dare County, NC. Photograph by Kent Fiala.

Upland Sandpiper: One seen at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Lane in *Henderson* NC 31 Jul (Amy Jackson, Vince Kloster) was our first "uppie" of fall.

Long-billed Curlew: One was seen on Bulls Island at Cape Romain NWR *Charleston* SC 21 Jun (David McLean).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: One seen and photographed in the Dalzell unit of the Modern Turf farm in *Sumter* SC 30-31 Jul (Matt Rivers, m. obs.) was somewhat early.

Pectoral Sandpiper: One photographed on the eastern end of Sunset Beach *Brunswick* NC 1 Jul (Liling Warren) was early.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two photographed near Clemson *Pickens* SC 7 Jun (Kevin Kubach) were somewhat late for a site so far from the coast.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Pairs seen and photographed along Concord Church Rd in *Person* NC 8 Jul (Susan Jones, m. obs.) and in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 22 Jul (Elizabeth and Henry Link, m. obs.) were good finds inland.

Willet: Individuals photographed in the Horsepen Creek arm of Lake Brandt *Guilford* NC 20-26 Jun (Henry Link, m. obs.) and at Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 5 Jul (Heather Buttonow) were rather early inland for those inland sites. Three photographed in flight over Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg* NC 22 Jul (Steve Coggin, et al.) were also notable inland.

Wilson's Phalarope: An adult female photographed at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC 17 Jun (Ken & Julie Davis) was unusual for mid-June. At Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC, an adult male was seen at South Pond 28-30 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) and at North Pond 22-30 Jul (Daniel Irons, m. obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope: One seen and photographed on South Pond at Pea Island NWR *Dare* NC 28-29 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) was unusual for mid-summer.

Bonaparte's Gull: Individuals photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access) *Jasper* SC 2 Jun (Steve Calver, et al.) and in Corolla *Dare* NC 5 Jun (Christian Hawn, et al.) were somewhat late.

Laughing Gull: A migrant flock of 12 at Harris Lake *Wake* NC 11 Jun (Kevin Markham) were rather late for an inland site. An adult individual seen and photographed on Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 19-21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell, m. obs.) was unusual for the mountain region, especially in mid-summer.

Heermann's Gull: An adult, presumably the same individual intermittently seen at scattered sites along the coast for the past two years, was photographed at Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 1 Jul (Matthew Press).

Least Tern: One photographed in flight over Oak Hollow Lake *Guilford* NC 18 Jun (Milko Gervet) was very unusual for the NC Piedmont away from the passage of a tropical storm.

Caspian Tern: One at Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell) was unusual for the mountain region in mid-summer.

Roseate Terns, 3 Jun 2023, Ft Macon SP, Carteret County NC. Photograph by Marty Wall.

Roseate Tern: Sightings continued around Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC from late May through 18 Jun (Marty Wall) with a high count of seven, a remarkable count for that area, made 3-4 Jun (Wall, m. obs.). In *Dare* NC, one or two were seen around Cape Point intermittently through the period (m. obs.) and four were seen on the beach on the southern side of Oregon Inlet 30 Jul Daniel Irons). Notable for SC and pending review by its BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Roseate Tern on the beach at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* 20-30 Jun (Dale Reynolds, m. obs.).

Common Tern: Individuals photographed over Lake Norman in *Mecklenburg* 17 Jun (Patty Masten, et al.) and over Moss Lake *Cleveland* NC 22 Jun (Kevin Clary, Vicky Burke) were unusual for the Piedmont region in June.

Forster's Tern: Four in flight over Ecusta Pond *Transylvania* NC 21 Jun (Nathaniel Axtell) was a remarkable count for the mountain region in June.

Red-throated Loon: One photographed on the Pamlico Sound in Waves *Dare* NC 11 Jun (Karen Lebing) was quite late.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: The flurry of from-shore sightings caused by a stalled weather system off the coast in late May continued into early June, with reports made from most coastal counties from *Dare* NC south to *Charleston* SC. 80 over Beaufort Inlet from Ft Macon SP *Carteret* NC 7 Jun (Marty Wall) was a notable count for that area.

Cory's Shearwater: 75 in flight off Cape Lookout *Carteret* NC 6 Jun (Jack Rogers, Christian Smith) was a notable count for that site. 742 in eastbound flight off Cape Point *Dare* NC 21 Jun (Daniel Irons) was the summer's high count.

Audubon's Shearwater: From-shore sightings were made at several sites in late July, likely related to a period of easterly winds. Individuals photographed in flight off Myrtle Beach SP Pier *Horry* SC 23 Jul (Scott Hartley), at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 26 Jul (Megan Kasprzak), and in Southern Shores *Dare* NC 30 Jul (Jeff Lewis) were notable for those areas.

Wood Stork: 368 at a known nesting colony at a private lake in southern *Columbus* NC 31 May (Charlie Ayers, Duncan Fraser) was a notable count for NC. Two seen in flight over western Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC 1 Jun (Nathan Gatto) were unusual for the

Piedmont region in early June. Post-breeding dispersal started up towards the end of July, with one along Mud Creek in *Henderson* NC 23 Jul (Bob Butler) and 29 Jul (Cathy Ford, m. obs.) being notable for the mountain region.

Magnificent Frigatebird: Individuals were seen in flight over dozens of coastal sites this summer, mostly 10 Jun through 4 Jul, with a peak 24-27 Jun following a period of easterly winds. Many reports likely involved the same individual moving up/down the coast.

Masked Booby: Individuals were seen near the shelf break about 30 miles southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC 16 Jun (Katherine Wychulis) and 17 Jun and 20 Jul (Daniel Irons).

Brown Booby: Immature individuals were seen on the ocean near the shelf break southeast of Cape Point *Dare* NC 16 Jun (Katherine Wychulis) and 29 Jun and 19 Jul (Daniel Irons). A sick/injured immature bird found on Holden Beach *Brunswick* NC 24 Jul (David Wilson) was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Anhinga: Successful nesting confirmed at the upper end of High Point Lake *Guilford* NC, where four adults and two active nests with a total of six juveniles were found 3 Jun (Linda & Paul Sumner, Matt Wangerin), was notable for the upper Piedmont region.

Great Cormorant: Individuals seen and photographed at Beaufort Inlet *Carteret* NC 13 Jun through 7 Aug (Marty Wall, m. obs.) and at Masonboro Inlet *New Hanover* NC 22 Jun and 24 Jul (Sam Cooper) were unusual for mid-summer. Though this species is regular at both sites in winter, none were seen at either site in April or May this year, suggesting these birds arrived in mid-June rather than lingering from winter.

Brown Pelican: An adult photographed at Lake Julian *Buncombe* NC 12 Jun (G. Ivey, John Koon) was only the fourth ever documented in the NC mountains. Other inland sightings involved an immature bird on Lake Hartwell *Anderson* SC 28 Jun through 4 Jul (Jason Corder, m. obs.), an adult on Lake Murray *Lexington* SC 30 Jun through 8 Jul (Zach Steinhauser, m. obs.), three, one adult and two immatures, on Lake Murray 24 Jul (Jim Browning), and two on Lake Wylie *York* SC 28 Jul (Harley Conrad).

Least Bittern: Three "singing" birds at a private lake in eastern *Moore* NC 17 Jun (John Bird, et al.) was suggestive of attempted nesting at that site.

Snowy Egret: Farthest inland this period was one at Kanuga Lake *Watauga* NC 17 Jul (Tommy Llama, et al.).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Counts of five at Lake Twitty *Union* NC 6 Jun and 18 Jul (Dennis Kent) and a count of eight, five adults and three juveniles, 23 Aug (Kent) were suggestive of nesting at that site. An immature individual seen at Lake Tomahawk *Buncombe* NC 1-22 Jul (Walter Somerville, m. obs.) was somewhat unusual for the mountain region.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: In the NC Piedmont, successful nesting was confirmed at Miller Park *Forsyth* when two juveniles were seen on a nest 8 Jun (Marbry Hopkins) and at Ephesus Park *Orange* when a total of nine juveniles were seen on two nests 18 Jun (Kent Fiala). Not far from the nesting site in *Orange*, nesting was suspected at Sandy Creek Park *Durham* where up to five adults and two juveniles were seen through summer (m. obs.) and along Lower Little Creek in southwestern *Durham* where three juveniles were seen alongside two adults 30 Jun (Mark DiGiovanni).

Glossy Ibis: One at Horseshoe Road Nature Preserve *Granville* NC 31 Jul (Mike Manetz) was unusual for that area.

Roseate Spoonbill, 8 July 2023, Iredell County NC. Photograph by Ian McDonald.

Roseate Spoonbill: Like four of the past five years, spoonbills made a remarkable push northward and inland during the period of post-breeding dispersal in late summer. In NC, inland sightings included one at Tuckertown Lake *Rowan* 23 Jun (Linda Grebe), one in northern High Point *Guilford* 3-6 Jul (Brenda Hiles-Hurt, m. obs.), one at Lake Norman SP *Iredell* 3-10 Jul (F. Cassarino, m. obs.), one in Roaring River *Wilkes* 3-29 Jul (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.), three in northwestern *Richmond* 19 Jul (Mary Hatton), one at Wiggins Mill Reservoir *Wilson* 22-29 Jul (Alex Fuller, m. obs.), and two at Richardson-Taylor Preserve *Guilford* 29 Jul into August (Elizabeth Link, Linda Sumner, m. obs.). In SC, inland sightings included three at Lee SP *Lee* 10 Jun (Laura Kirk), two along Bluff Rd in *Richland* 24 Jun (John Grego), three along SC-6 in *Calhoun* 22 Jul (Thad Raymond, m. obs.), and one at Ninety-Six National Historic Site *Greenwood* 23 Jul (Chris Contakos). Double-digit counts at Huntington Beach SP *Georgetown* SC throughout the period (m. obs.), including a count of 50 made there 8 Jul (Stacy Hartman), were notable for the northern SC coast.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Two over US-64 near Jamesville *Martin* NC 25 Jun through 1 Jul (Ricky Davis, m. obs.) and one over eastern *Cabarrus* NC 25 Jun (Matthew Withrow) were early post-breeding wanderers. Later in July, individuals were seen over sites in the NC Piedmont including Summerfield *Guilford* 8 Jul (Matt Wangerin), I-40 in western *Iredell* 14 Jul (Brian Bockhahn), Abbots Creek Trail in *Wake* 16 Jul (Lori Arent, et al.), central *Gaston* 17 Jul (Erin Hines), and eastern *Wilkes* 29 Jul (Alex Trifunovic). Notable counts for the SC Piedmont included 16 in northern *Laurens* 13 Jul (Simon Harvey), seven along Keasler Rd in *Anderson* 17 Jul (Ann Bailes), 13 in southwestern *Spartanburg* 21 Jul (Matthew Campbell), and six in northern *Spartanburg* 27 Jul (Rick Veazey, m. obs.). The peak count at the annual late-summer gathering over fields in southern *Aiken* SC was 210 on 22 Jul (Carol Eldridge).

Northern Harrier: Individuals lingered throughout the summer at the Voice of America site in *Beaufort* NC (Miles Buddy, David True, m. obs.) and at Cedar Island NWR *Carteret* NC (m. obs.). One seen in flight over the French Broad River in *Henderson* NC 14 Jun (Marilyn Westphal) was unusual for the mountain region in mid-June.

Mississippi Kite: Nesting was confirmed in northwestern Winston-Salem *Forsyth* NC where, after a nest was discovered 16 Jun (Leslie Poole), two adults were seen tending to an unfledged juvenile 23 Jul (John Haire).

Broad-winged Hawk: Successful nesting confirmed in eastern *Lenoir* NC, where a family group of one adult and two vocal juveniles were seen 15 Jul (Duncan Fraser), was notable for that area.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Individuals seen in a managed portion of Sumter National Forest in northern *Newberry* SC, where photographed 17 Jun (Jeff Magniez, Cherrie Sneed), and near Jordan Lake State Educational Forest *Chatham* NC, where audio-recorded calling 10 Jul (Fleeta Chauvigne, Mark Montazer), were great finds for those former breeding areas.

Merlin: Suggestive of possible nesting in the NC mountains were summer reports of one at Mountain Aire Golf Course in *Ashe* NC 24 Jun (Clifton Avery) through 8 Jul (Tammy & Tom Sanders), one at Mt Mitchell SP *Yancey* NC 10 Jul (Catherine Reid, Debbie Segal), two in Banner Elk *Avery* NC 20 Jul (Alex Trifunovic), and one near Black Balsam Knob *Haywood* NC 17-21 Jul (Andrew Rapp, m. obs.).

Western Kingbird: Individuals photographed at Cape Point Campground *Dare* NC 9 Jun (David & Susan Disher, Roper Halverson) and along Tuttle Rd in *Stokes* NC 18 Jun (Tony & Cara Woods) were very unusual for the summer period.

Gray Kingbird: An individual photographed at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve *Charleston* SC 12 Jun (William Twomey) was the only one reported this summer.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: The pair nesting again this year near the York–Rock Hill Airport *York* SC were likely unsuccessful, as no juveniles were seen there and the adults departed by July. The pair seen along Williamson Rd *York* SC in late May likely nested somewhere in that area, as three were seen there 28 Jun and 24 Jul (Marcus & Cheryl Morris). Pairs seen three miles to the south in northern *Chester* SC 24 Jul (Morris) and three miles to the northwest along Oak Park Rd in *York* SC 30 Jun (Morris) may have been part of that same family group. Individuals photographed on powerlines in agricultural areas in northwestern *Iredell* NC 2 Jun (Caroline Martin), along Daisy Thompson Rd in *Person* NC 2 Jun (Jeff Blalock, m. obs.) and along Harris Grove Rd in northern *Laurens* SC 10 Jul (Simon Harvey) did not stick around.

Plumbeous Vireo: Pending review by the NC BRC is the report with photographs of an apparent Plumbeous Vireo, reportedly an actively singing adult male, on Colington Island *Dare* NC 7 Jun (David True, m. obs.). If accepted, the report would provide the first record of this western relative of the Blue-headed Vireo anywhere in the Carolinas.

Apparent Plumbeous Vireo, 7 Jun 2023, Colington Island, Dare County NC. Photograph by David Disher.

Warbling Vireo: Singing males were reported at a few sites in the eastern Piedmont in very early June, though none established territory. A singing male in Roaring River *Wilkes* NC 4-7 Jul (Guy McGrane, Andrew Rapp, m. obs.) was unusual for that area.

Black-whiskered Vireo: One photographed and audio-recorded singing at the Old Burying Ground in Beaufort *Carteret* NC 16-17 Jun (Marty Wall, m. obs.) was a great find.

Loggerhead Shrike: Nesting confirmed southeast of Murfreesboro *Hertford* NC where an adult was seen carrying nesting material 24 Jun (Jack Rogers) and at Dutchman's Creek Lake *Davie* NC where three juveniles were seen alongside an adult 18 Jul (Paul Nielson) was notable for those areas.

Bank Swallow: One over North River Preserve *Carteret* NC 27 Jun (John Fussell) was unusual for mid-summer.

Cliff Swallow: 350 at an under-bridge nesting colony where US-601 crosses the Congaree River in southeastern *Richland* SC 7 May (Ron Ahle) was a notable count. An under-bridge nesting colony where US-701 crosses the Black River in *Georgetown* SC, where up to 35 were seen 7-14 Jul (Ken Davis), was notable for that area.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One seen at Highlands Biological Station in southeastern *Macon* NC 8 Jun (Paul McKenzie) was extremely late.

Evening Grosbeak: An adult male photographed at a feeder near Brevard *Transylvania* NC 10 Jun (Niruka Alley) and a female seen near Spruce Pine *Mitchell* NC 13 Jun (Adam Duff) were extremely late, likely lingering from this past winter's mini-irruption.

Lapland Longspur: One photographed in grassy dunes near the Salt Pond at Cape Point *Dare* NC 5 Jun (Megan Baker, m. obs.) was incredibly late, the first ever documented in the Carolinas during the summer period.

Lark Sparrow: Counts at Ft Liberty (restricted access) of seven in northern *Hoke* NC 1 Jun (Nick Spigler) and eight in central *Hoke* 17 Jun (Spigler) were suggestive of successful nesting there. Birders are reminded that Ft Liberty is an active military base and closed to the public.

Bobolink: Nesting was suspected again this year along Bamboo Rd in *Watauga* NC where 15 were seen 19 May (Jan Mouro) and three continued through summer (m. obs.), at Island Ford Landing *Transylvania* NC where seven continued through 15 Jun (Nick Accardo), and near Beech Mountain in western *Watauga* NC where four continued through 18 Jun (Alex Trifunovic).

Northern Waterthrush: One at Brumley Nature Preserve South *Orange* NC 26 Jul (Kent Fiala, et al.) was rather early.

Swainson's Warbler: Singing adult males at Fant Grove WMA *Anderson* SC for a fourth summer in a row 8 May through 7 July (Kevin Kubach), at Pharr Family Preserve *Cabarrus* NC for a third summer in a row 13-18 Jun (Rick Simpson, m. obs.), and along the Deep River Trail in Franklinville *Randolph* NC 3 Jul (Fleeta Chauvigne, Mark Montazer) were notable for those areas of the Piedmont.

Cerulean Warbler: One photographed in Chapel Hill *Orange* NC 30 Jul (Jin Bai) was quite early for a site away from the mountain region.

Magnolia Warbler: Singing males in Banner Elk *Avery* NC, at 3700', 17 Jun (Alex Trifunovic) and at an overgrown fir tree farm in northwestern *Ashe* NC, at 3280', 12 Jul (Andrew Rapp) were unusual for those areas. Pairs likely nested on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC where one or two singing males and one female were seen intermittently through the summer (m. obs.) and in the Beacon Heights area near Grandfather Mountain *Avery* NC where an adult was seen carrying food 28 Jul (Charlie Ayers, et al.).

Yellow Warbler: An adult male photographed at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC 11 Jun (Liling Warren) was quite late for a site in the outer coastal plain.

Pine Warbler: Successful nesting at New River SP *Ashe* NC confirmed when two recently fledged juveniles were seen alongside an adult 13 Jun (Ed & Sheila Bremer) was notable for the northwest corner of NC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Singing males on Roan Mountain *Mitchell* NC and Clingmans Dome *Swain* NC intermittently throughout the period (m. obs.), at Grandfather Mountain *Avery* NC 16 Jun (David Schroder), and Mt Mitchell *Yancey* NC 28 Jul (Austin Jones), were suggestive of attempted nesting at those sites.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Successful nesting confirmed at Valle Crucis Community Park *Watauga* NC when two recently fledged juveniles were seen alongside an adult 5 Jul (Paul Laurent, et al.) was notable for the northwest corner of NC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: An adult male photographed at a feeder in Waves *Dare* NC 4 Jun (Karen Lebing) was quite late for a site outside of the mountains.

Painted Bunting: Singing males on territory at five sites in *Robeson* NC—near Pembroke 28 Jun (Christian Smith), at three sites near Rowland 29 Jun (Jack Rogers), and near Lumber Bridge 30 Jun (Smith)—were notable for that non-coastal NC county. Nesting was confirmed at the site near Lumber Bridge when a juvenile was photographed there 15 Jul (Hal Broadfoot). The singing male on territory at Dorothea Dix Park *Wake* NC for a second year in a row continued through the summer and was last seen 10 Aug (Natalie Barbour).

Dickcissel: Counts at known/suspected breeding sites in the Piedmont included two near the intersection Dairyland Rd and Meadow View Rd in *Orange* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), up to three singing males along Howerton Rd *Guilford* NC throughout the period (m. obs.), up to four singing males at Dobbins Farm *Anderson* SC in June (m. obs.), two singing males along Old Mountain Rd in western *Iredell* NC 29 May through 4 Jul (Monroe Pannell, m. obs.), two singing males along Compton Rd in northwestern *Orange* NC 11-19 Jun (Don Pelly, m. obs.), and up to three singing males along Harris Grove Rd in *Laurens* SC 10 Jul through 2 Aug (Simon Harvey, m. obs.). Near the coast, Dickcissels likely attempted to nest at North River Preserve *Carteret* NC where up to four were seen throughout the period (m. obs.) and at Alligator River NWR *Dare* NC where a singing male was seen NC 1-29 Jun (Karen Lebing, m. obs.) and a count of three, two singing males and one female, was made 16 Jun (Andrew Thornton). A female individual photographed along the Pitt Street Causeway *Charleston* SC 8 Jun (Sophie Dismukes) was unusual for a site along the coast in summer.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes to the extent allowable. Pay dues or make donations at https://carolinabirdclub.org/dues. Make change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile. Send correspondence regarding membership matters to the Headquarters Secretary. Answers to questions about the club might be found at https://carolinabirdclub.org/about.html.

ANNUAL DUES

Individual or non-profit	$30.00
Family	$35.00
Student	$15.00
Sustaining and businesses	$30.00
Patron	$50.00 and up
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive $125 installments)	$500.00
Associate Life Membership (in same household as life member)	$100.00

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